

8-1941
Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Farm Youth Sour on Sex, Pastors, White Neighbors

By JOHN JASPER

The average youth in the rural South wants to be brownskin, have no dealings with white children, and become a professional man or a skilled tradesman. He does not think well of the rural ministers, but almost uniformly praises colored physicians and votes by a heavy majority against fighting and drinking.



Dr. Johnson heavy majority against fighting and drinking.

MAR 1 1941

New U.S. Study Shows 2,000 Kids Vote for Brown Skin, Skilled Jobs, and Girls Who Do Not Smoke or Cuss

Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University studied 2,000 children, between the ages of 12 and 19, in eight selected counties of the rural South from Tennessee to Alabama.

Their attitudes and opinions are told in a new book, "Growing Up in the Black Belt," prepared for the American Youth Commission and published by the American Council on Education in Washington.

On the Church

Of the 2,000 young persons, 78 per cent thought the preacher told them to do a lot of things he didn't do himself. Some 53 per cent thought all the pastor wanted was to get as much money out of the people as possible.

Nearer the cities, Dr. Johnson said, youth responded to superior qualities of ministry, and most hostile attitudes were found among youth the church failed

to reach.

Brown Skin

Sixty-six per cent of the girls and 60 per cent of the boys preferred to be brownskin; 60 per cent said the worst color to be was white or yellow, while 34 per cent said the worst color was black.

Doctors Popular

Ninety-three per cent thought colored doctors as good as any; 85 per cent felt that colored people could get ahead if they had a chance; 81 per cent frowned on fighting, and 70 per cent frowned on drinking.

No Large Families

Youngsters, Dr. Johnson said, are setting stricter sex standards, and frown on common-law marriage. Boys are outspoken against girls who drink, smoke or cuss. Girls want a home and a husband with steady work, but no large families.

On White People

That white people think all colored folk should be servants was the opinion of 78 per cent of the children.

Ninety per cent of them agreed that white people call colored people bad names.

Eighty per cent said whites made fun and laughed at them.

A majority of the youth felt that whites are mean and stingy, poor Christians, and, no matter how nicely a white person treated a colored person, he did not really mean it.

To Be Left Alone

Forty-eight per cent said that all they wanted was that whites leave them alone. Almost an equal number said they never thought about white people. Thirteen per cent said we should hate all whites and four per cent wished they were white to escape oppression.

12 Per Cent Middle Class

Children interviewed, Dr. Johnson said, were 82 per cent lower class, 12 per cent middle class, and 6 per cent upper class.

Of the families represented, 15

per cent earned over \$1,000 a year; 18 per cent had a vote, 21 per cent had skilled work, 8 per cent had libraries of more than 50 books, 21 per cent had autos, 12 per cent owned property, 17 per cent owned radios, and 45 per cent read papers and magazines.

Bitter Attitudes

Thirty-nine per cent of the 12-year-olds said they hated all white people; 15 per cent of the 19-year-olds did. This may represent a change in attitude as children grow older, or a growing of better feeling among young people.

Sixty-eight per cent of the 12-year-olds said they kept away from whites, and 62 per cent of the 19-year-olds said the same thing. Not much change there.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois
Plantation Memories

"Lanterns on the Levee," by William Alexander Percy. [Knopf, \$3.] MAR 19 1941

"Recollections of a Planter's Son" is the subtitle of these memoirs of William Alexander Percy of Greenville, Miss., memories of 50 years in the Delta. They have none of the violence or terror of William Faulkner's fiction about the same region. They are shot thru with humorous irony, sincerity, and a deep sentiment—tho no sentimentality—about his land and his people and his way of life. What it was like growing up on a plantation by the great river and going out into the world a Delta man is recorded in a prose highly distinguished and often delicious.

Mr. Percy's published literary work to date has been poetry. He writes his memories with a poet's delicate sense of words and delicate intuition about life, and to that adds gentle humor and tolerance.

There is understanding and forthrightness in his analysis of "the southern aristocrat," extinct as a class, he says, but with characteristics which obviously appear in individuals.

Mr. Percy likewise is forthright

about the relation of Negroes and white persons in the south today, analyzes it at length, and concludes: "I claim only to be one of that vast number of men of good will who try, with indifferent success, to see wisely and act justly. As such, I would say to the Negro: Before demanding to be a white man socially and politically, learn to be a white man morally and intellectually, and to the white man: The black man is your brother, a younger brother, not adult, not disciplined, but tragic, pitiful, and lovable; act as his brother and be patient."

But "Lanterns on the Levee" is not a discussion of racial or class problems, but a volume of memoirs, and as that it records the author's years in Belgium with the Hoover Food administration in France with the American army, as well as his extensive travels—and does it all with great allure for the reader.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

DR. C. H. WESLEY
PUBLISHES BOOK
OF FIVE ADDRESSES

Volume Gives Able Messages of Past President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Washington, D.C. (Special)—According to announcement made in Dr. Charles H. Wesley's office here in this city, he has received the first bound volume of the five brilliant addresses that he delivered to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity from 1933 to 1940. The type was set, the proof read, the press work done and the book completed at the National Baptist Publishing Board's plant in Nashville, Tenn.

Brother Henry Allen Boyd, a member of the Chi Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in the Volunteer State, promised the national convention in Kansas City last December that if they would turn the manuscript over to him he would put it in book form. When the announcement was first made there was some skepticism about whether Brother Boyd really knew what it would take and what it would cost,

Times-Picayune

New Orleans, La.

HISTORICAL NOVEL

MAR 23 1941
BY THE DIM LAMPS. Nathan
Schachner Stokes. \$2.75.

THIS IS A novel backgrounded upon New Orleans during the War Between the States and the Reconstruction period, down to the September 14, 1874, climax at the head of Canal street.

At times, the historical relation shoves the romantic tale into the background. The author shows a great deal of historical knowledge so far as the superficials go, but he fails to pry into causes or analyze effects, and he does not give the picture the cohesion of interpretive appraisal.

For this reason, the general effect is to accentuate and perpetuate old prejudices. They are in the Southern point of view and that is pleasing to us who have been raised on them. But they are as far from the truth as the prejudices from the Northern point of view.

In many geographical details, the writer blunders; which suggests, in connection with his ex parte presentment of the New Orleans situation, that his research was rather slovenly. The plantation scenes are the best; they are true. —P. D. L.

but President Wesley having been a student at Fisk University when the late R. H. Boyd established the National Baptist Publishing Board's plant, knew the ability of this institution. He is not only personally acquainted with Brother Henry Allen Boyd, he knew the late R. H. Boyd intimately, because during Dr. Wesley's school period at Fisk he was connected with The Fisk Herald and had occasion to be at the National Baptist Publishing Board's plant many times.

The ship reached Washington this past week. Dr. Wesley is now working with Brother R. M. Evans, the Grand Secretary, in preparing a list that will receive the first copies of these addresses.

Delta Success Story Abounds In Rich Social Implications

MAR 23 1941

THE USURPER. By Harry Harrison Kroll. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

Stan Butterworth is "The Usurper" and the narrative of his doings is a remarkable success story of a Delta peckerwood.

Butterworth's parents belong to that nondescript class of hangers-on who constitute the seamiest portion of Delta society. By one of those accidents of youth, inexplicable save on the basis of juvenile indiscretion, he finds himself head-over-heels in love with Lacey Rutherford, daughter of old Judge Rutherford of Cotton-town's uppermost crust. Lacey gives her word of betrothal; then without warning she marries one of her own caste. The effect upon Stan is terrific. He hies himself to the swamps, sets up a store, and becomes notorious as a miser and a recluse. According to local gossip, his frugality extends to the eating of snakes. For some 25 years he devotes himself to a niggardly hermit existence, but all the while he adds to a hoard which reaches forty or fifty thousand dollars.

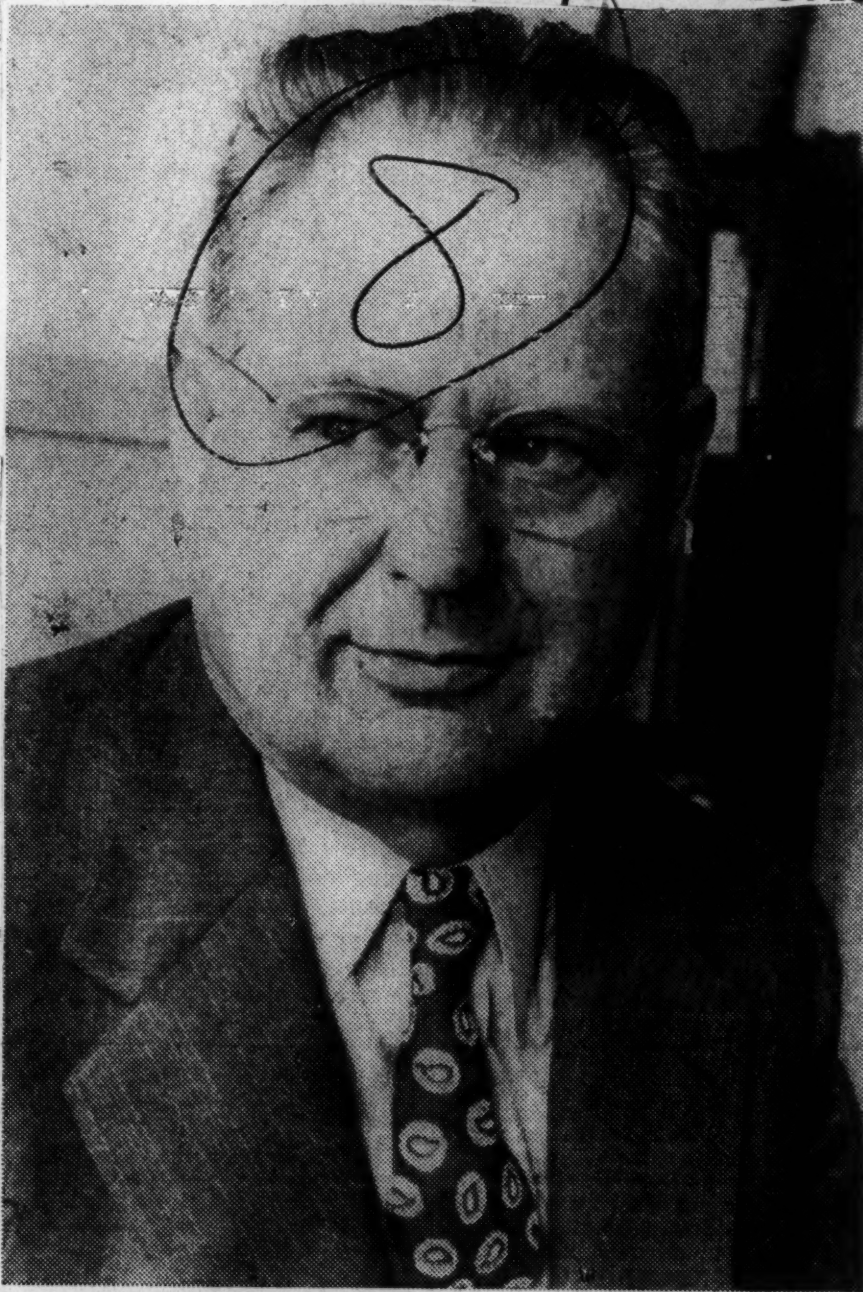
Then something happens to Stan. His awakening follows a fit of anger and results in a spending spree.

This attracts the attention of a local committee that is attempting to put on a cotton festival in an effort to lift the Delta out of economic doldrums. Stan is given an assignment, and his work on the committee brings him into contact with Lacey McFerrin, who throws him crumbs of attention when she needs his financial support.

As the great depression falls upon the land the ever-extravagant planter economy begins to fold up—and Butterworth begins to cash in. He acquires a mortgage on McFerrin's plantation. Finally he gets control of the bank and its presidency. His crowning stroke is the utilization of his moneyed strength to gratify the desire of his girlish bride to be crowned queen of the Delta's most outstanding social event.

But there is a tragic hollowness in Stan's victory. His one great desire is to be socially acceptable to the planter class. To that end he drives bargains for honorary positions, reads the classics, takes dancing lessons, labors over etiquette books, and pays a waiter to teach him table manners. But the pearl of greatest price ever eludes him and the town's near-penniless grandees walk out in open snobbery when he stages the triumphal coronation of his peckerwood bride.

In Stan Butterworth Harry Kroll has created a forceful and an unforgettable character—one who stands head and shoulders above his previous creations. Lett Capers



Harry Harrison Kroll appears as both author and reviewer on today's book page.

of "Keepers of the House" was an impressive sort of character; so was Dan Morgan of "Cabin in the Cotton." But Stan Butterworth is superior to both. He has depth; his personality presents a manysidedness and gradation of shading that give him greater force and reality. He is mean, ruthless, and scheming in his relentless drive to get ahead. But he is not the loathsome sort of climber that Flem Snopes is in Faulkner's "Hunger." He has a generous side. He reflects in innumerable ways the conflict and the confusion of his station and of his time.

The plot of "The Usurper" is

rich in social contrasts and in economic implications; and it is executed with a mature artistry. Descriptive passages of the Delta scene reflect a rare sensitiveness to the locale, and attain at times the beauty of poetry.

Those who read only the first fifty or sixty pages or so of this book will probably not gain an impression of extraordinary achievement, for the story is a bit slow in getting under way. But as it moves on it steadily gains momentum and dimension. As the closing pages bring the plot to fruition the reader is drawn inescapably to the conclusion that the work before him is one of outstanding brilliance

and merit. Kroll has come a long way since "The Mountainy Singer" and "Cabin in the Cotton." "The Usurper" is unquestionably his greatest novel to date.

B. I. WILEY
University of Mississippi.

News Birmingham, Ala.

THE SOUTH IN PROGRESS, by Katharine DuPre Lumpkin. Published by International Publishers; 256 pages, \$2.50.

MAR 30 1941

FOR EVEN A SOUTHERNER to know and understand the South is a most difficult task. But regardless of difficulties, of embarrassments, we must, as Dr. Lumpkin says in her foreword, "re-examine and reconstruct our ideas on Southern history and problems. Some have to do more recasting than others, depending upon the generation to which they belong and the particular tenor of the teaching they have received. But it would be surprising if there were any of us who did not need to do a somewhat thorough overhauling. Many never undertake the task, of course. They are what we may term for lack of a better phrase traditional Southerners."

Dr. Lumpkin is herself a Southern woman and at the request of the Labor Research Association she set about examining the South economically, politically, socially and culturally.

A social economist of recognized high standing, Dr. Lumpkin writes with keen insight about conditions in the South during the past decade. Included in the book are discussions of "the emergence of liberal thought, the Southern working class and the struggle for unionization, education and why it has been backward, the crusade for civil rights, widespread discrimination against the Negro, the condition of sharecroppers and their effort to change their lot, the New Deal, the TVA and the AAA, cotton and tobacco culture in the development of Southern economy, the consequence to Southern welfare of absentee control of Southern industry and resources."

There is a lot of this book that Southerners won't like, but there is mighty little of it they can deny. It is a volume to be read with greatest care, to be pondered and, above all, acted upon.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

HYDE PARK, Wednesday. There is an interesting book, which the American Youth Commission has just published, called Time on Their Hands, which has records of leisure, recreation and young people.



Radios and movie programs are as available to rural youth as they are to urban youth, but somehow much of the joy of life that used to be acted by simple human contacts and working together for fun or for educational and civic purposes seems to have disappeared out of modern life. Our particularly underprivileged youngsters are those who come from the lowest income group, or who live in rural areas and, above all, our young Negro people. We need better planning and trained leadership.

The National Recreation Assn. has made a study of the amount of money which communities should devote to recreation per capita. They place it at \$3.00, but in 1937 that standard was reached by only two of the 94 cities of 100,000 or more population. The average per capita expenditure for this whole group of cities was \$1.54.

We are doubly conscious at this moment of the need of recreation, because we have found it so vital in and around our army camps. One idea which I have just heard about and which is being tried out in a number of communities around the camps is well worth considering. They have set up community cookie jars for the boys. Village and farm wives are sending in packages to the recreation center to keep these cookie jars full. I am told that they are one of the most popular things that have been tried.

8-1941
Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

THE SOUTH'S DEVELOPMENT AS A SOUTHERNER SEES IT

MAR 2 - 1941

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH. By
W. J. Cash. Knopf. \$3.75.

TO EXPLAIN and criticise the thinking—and hence the acting—of the Southerner is a man-sized job. The task would be difficult enough in a study of closely-knit communities of homogeneous people. How much greater the problem becomes when it involves, as in this work, mixed groups within loosely-joined regions and states!

First, one must define the Southern mental pattern; then show how that thinking has affected, and been affected by events. One who attempts such a task needs a philosopher's sense of values, a practical scientist's ability to observe, and a versatile writer's method of presenting the findings. Something of all that equipment is revealed in this long-range criticism of the South by a North Carolina newspaper man.

Perhaps the title, "The Mind of the South," fits the work's underlying theme. However, this is primarily a socio-economic discussion, with several measures of politics leavening the mixture. Economic changes are emphasized, as they should be. The passages dealing with the textile industry south of the Potomac are outstanding illustrations of the more serious reporting and criticism attempted in the book.

Mr. Cash rejects the notion that all slave-owners were aristocrats, and makes a surprising estimate which should open lively debates with Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy:

"I have no figures, but I confidently hazard the guess that the total number of families in Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana—in all the regions of the little aristocracies—who were rationally to be reckoned as proper aristocrats came to less than five hundred—and maybe not more than half that figure."

He omits a definition of "proper aristocrats."

In the middle years of the South's development, he says, any direct exploitation of the common whites resulted from "the impersonal working out of social and economic forces," not from anybody's will to that end. The South's turn to Progress (with capital P) is attributed partly to social and patriotic motives, not merely to "the profit motive, cheap labor and the proximity of

raw material . . . Southern landlords feared that competition of the poor whites with the Negroes would develop bitterest class consciousness, result in chaos, destroy the entire Southern fabric."

Denying that agrarian sentiment ever became a fundamental constituent of the Southern mind, he disputes the "facile assumptions of Allen Tate and the Southern Agrarians." He holds that the New South, presumably including its industrialization, "flowed straight out of that past (the Old South) and constituted in a real sense an emanation from the will to maintain the



W. J. CASH

South in its essential integrity. Also, he asserts that after 1900 a devotion to cash-box economy tended to elevate the horse-trading type of leader above the more socially minded pioneer leaders.

Sympathetic toward labor, Mr. Cash deplores the type of mind which reasons—or propagandizes: "Labor unions+strikers=Communists+atheism+social equality with the Negro . . ." Much of the criticism which he directs at the employer group and their supporters in the South would apply, of course, equally as well in Northern industrial disputes.

As for other developments, he rejoices at the decline of lynching and the advance of

public schools. The rise of university presses, newspapers and a "greatly flourishing literature" are acclaimed. He boots the (modern) Klan and probably exaggerates the extent of its following among high officials in the 1920s. His conclusion that the anti-evolution movement "had the active support and sympathy of the overwhelming majority of the Southern people" seems inadequately supported.

This Southerner has carefully avoided any sentimentalizing about "The Advancing South," in contrast with Dr. Edwin Mims' book published several years ago. In fact, he has leaned backward in an effort to view the South objectively. He has accepted and tried to interpret Progress without regarding industrialization as a savior. His criticism lacks, necessarily, the travelogue-appeal of Daniels' "A Southerner Discovers the South," yet from his editorial vantage point on the Charlotte News, he discovers much about the whole section. It seems highly probable that political economists and historians will recognize the high documentary value of what he has written. —G. E. S.

Telegraph Macon, Georgia Civil War's Aftermath MAR 2 1941 Historically Accurate Novel Dramatic Unfolds Story of Reconstruction Days

BY THE DIM LAMPS, by Nathan Schachner. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. 578 pp., \$2.75.

The biographer of Aaron Burr has erred in choosing a new medium. Mr. Schachner is a chronicler of scholarly exactitude. He possesses marked narrative ability and writes fluent and often beautiful prose; but he lacks creative skill. His brain children are inanimate.

Using New Orleans and the cane-fields as a background for this novel, christened from a line of The Battle Hymn of the Republic, the author unfolds the tragic story of reconstruction in Louisiana. Planters, river captains, traders, Creole aristocrats, gamblers, Negroes, carpet-baggers, scalawags, Knights of the White Camellia and federal soldiers crowd the pages. The portrayal of actual historic figures is excellent; especially Sherman as superintendent of the Military Institute, Butler as the Beast of New Orleans, and Warmoth as governor. The interpretation of Grant's presidency is a startling indictment.

Mr. Schachner's fidelity to his source material delights the historian, but his fictional people disappoint the reader. Sally Wailles is intended to exemplify the finest and Andy Hilgard the worst of ante-bellum plantation aristocracy. Sally is an arrogant, spoiled child. Andy is a drunkard, a braggart, a gambler, a libertine and a rabble-rouser. Marriage to him develops a statuesque beauty of character in Sally. Neither is convincing. Hugh Flint, the trader educated at Princeton, supposedly typifies the spirit of the new South. He is often Don Quixote, twice Achilles sulking in his tent, occasionally Galahad, sometimes a renegade, always a prig, and never a man of flesh and blood. The most vital characters are Jessie Tait, the Northern adventuress, and Quash, the giant Negro leader. Jessie loves Hugh, and Hugh loves Sally, who will not divorce Andy. The episode in which Hugh kills Quash who has just killed Andy, thereby freeing Sally, has an artificial convenience.

Despite obvious faults, the book has great dramatic quality and holds the reader's unflinching interest. However, one feels that Mr. Schachner's reading has indeed been done "by the dim

flaring lamps" if he considers Reconstruction to be "His righteous sentence" on our people. —EUNICE P. PERKINS.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Yesterday And Today In The South;

A Sound And Analytical Chronicle

MAR 2 - 1941

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH, by W. J. Cash, 444 pages. Alfred A. Knopf, New York—\$3.75.

This very interesting and forthright analysis of the South, the changing attitudes and the growth of the Southern mind is frankly chronicled. Its author is an associate editor of The Charlotte News. Mr. Cash's journalistic experiences are clearly imprinted upon his style. Sentences flow easily and colorfully as Mr. Cash proceeds without inhibitions to analyze the mind of the South and its development.

MAR 2 - 1941

Any such analysis always brings objections from people who desire a pretty and sentimental picture rather than a thoughtful and honest, albeit not a scholarly picture.

But, as Virginius Dabney reviewing this book for The New York Herald Tribune points out, this is no ill balanced or one-sided attack upon the South or upon any group of Southerners. Although, for example, Mr. Cash relates the records of Southern manufacturers' reactionary attitudes and actions in relation to such things as labor unions and the New Deal, he gives evidence to make it clear that there are enlightened and liberal men among them.

On the other hand, he describes many of the violences of labor union activities and shortcomings of the New Deal. He relates in some detail the contributions of the New Deal to the Southern cotton farmer. He examines the Ku Klux Klan, the anti-evolution laws, prohibition, and the ebb and flow of the influence of these.

The latter part of the book is by far the best. The analysis of the contemporary Southern mind and the pressures which have lately acted upon it moves at an accelerated pace and seems to be more vital to the author. The analysis of the ante-bellum period is the least convincing because of the inaccuracy of over-emphasis upon particular factors in the background. Specifically, Mr. Cash stresses too heavily the Virginia movement into the deep South and its influence upon thinking and customs throughout the South. Even a casual student of migration could hardly overlook the Carolinians' spread into the deep Southern states. He may have used the term "Virginia" figuratively, but it is not satisfactory as the major explanation of generic background.

His conclusions from his generic background of the man at the center are, however, that the true center of the South is the simple rustic figure and he is the frame about which the conditions of the plantation system threw up the whole structure of the South. In a word, then, he points out that the dominant trait of this mind is in individualism. But it is

not quite so simple as this, Mr. Cash explain how the Southern plantation system robbed the common Southern white of much, and although this often blocked-in the common Southerner he could escape as an individual although he could not do so en masse.

In relating the religious pattern of the South Mr. Cash looks in the main to this simple generic figure.

In writing of the conflict between the North and the South and the Southern ideal of this, Mr. Cash points out that it was this conflict which really created the concept of the South as something more than a matter of geography, as an object of patriotism, in the minds of the Southerners.

In moving next to a description of reconstruction Mr. Cash points out that it really was a failure because it was primarily an attempt to achieve by force what it failed to achieve by political means: a free hand for the tariff gang and the satisfaction of the instinctive urge to put down what differed, or the will to make over the South in the prevailing American image and to sweep it into the main current of the nation. But Mr. Cash notes that the war left the essential Southern mind and will and increased the social solidity of the South. On the other hand the author treats with sympathy and understanding the results and activities of reconstruction throughout the South.

Going on into the 1900's Mr. Cash notes that the South reached a sort of temporary equilibrium upon its ancient foundation, progress having brought about a metamorphosis of a sort but also reconfirmed the primary pattern in many respects. The tension returned with industrialism, and it is from this point on (the analysis of the contemporary South) that Mr. Cash's verve moves up a pace or so. The fact that there was much more to write about undoubtedly accounts for a part of this. There was certainly a quicker tempo of life with progress moving in and swiftly developing a new sort of laboring class; effects of absentee owned mills; the boll weevil; increase in population; increasing attention to emphasis upon the social case of the common man; the case of lynching; the negro beginning to lift his head and to become more assertive; the rise and fall of the Ku Klux Klan; the evolution laws; the results of the stock market crash on the South, particularly upon Southern labor; the NRA; the Southern tenant farmer and share-cropper and the gradual growth of the modern mind and the new analysis and criticism, particularly as represented by certain schools and writers (editorial, essayist, and authors of sociological and fictional works).

In setting out to describe the mind of the South he designates "a personality proud, brave, honorable, cour-

teous, personally generous, loyal, swift to action, often too self, but signally effective, sometimes terrible, in its action—such was the South at its best. And such it remains today, despite the great falling away in some of its virtues. Violence, intolerance, aversion and suspicion toward new ideas, an incapacity for analysis, an inclination to act from feeling rather than from thought, an exaggerated individualism and a too narrow concept of social responsibility, an attachment to fictions and false values, above all too great attachment to racial values and a tendency to justify cruelty and injustice in the name of those values, sentimentality and a lack of realism, have been its characteristic values in the past. And despite changes for the better they remain its characteristic vices today.

Mr. Cash's evaluation is no comparison of the South to other regions. It does not even suggest such and the fact that other regions may have as individual a development and identity does not concern this chronicle.

—R. F. H., Jr.

Black Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla. The Negro In Tennessee

By A. A. Taylor

MAR 15 1941

Dean A. A. Taylor has again written his name on the roll of historical scholars of the country in the production of his illuminating treatise on THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE, 1865-1880 (Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C., price \$3.00). Here we have increasing evidence of the ability of the Negro to tell his own story. Numerous writers of the white race have written on reconstruction in Tennessee from the point of view of those who hated the Negro and finally eliminated him from politics. Some of these writers tried to be fair, but they did not see the Negro except as a misfit and a marplot. In order to complete the picture the Negro must be given an opportunity to testify for himself. No honest judge can give judgment until this is done. Through this scholar, therefore, the Negro again gets a hearing at the bar of public opinion.

The average man with the usual American bias pays little attention to what the Negro says spontaneously in his own behalf; but in this book which the author has well documented in supporting his conclusions, historians of

all races will find facts which will influence them to express a different opinion and possibly to change their attitude. This scholarly work cannot be ignored. All must take it into account.

Dr. Taylor's background is an assurance of his ability to perform this task. He is an educator of experience and for almost a decade has been serving as Dean of Fisk University. He is a product of the Public Schools of Washington, D. C., the University of Michigan, and Harvard where he obtained the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. For a number of years he worked as an investigator of the Association for the Study of Negro life and History and during that time wrote two other books

of similar import, namely, THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION and THE NEGRO IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIRGINIA. These books were warmly received some years ago when they appeared, and historians found in them such exposure of the untruth in most works on reconstruction as to necessitate the rewriting of the history of that entire period.

Dr. Taylor has wisely chosen the states to be studied. THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION presents the story of the state in which the Negro participated more freely than probably in any other during the rehabilitation of the rebellious commonwealths. Virginia and Tennessee belong to those states which were not so radically changed and did not offer the Negro as much opportunity for participation in politics as in the case of South Carolina. In studying these two extremes, therefore, Dr. Taylor has made it possible for the reader to grasp the mean between these two extremes of government in operation at that time.

It is fortunate that Dr. Taylor is farther removed from the day of that struggle than most historians of the reconstruction and can study the situation most dispassionately. We are beginning to realize that most of the histories of the reconstruction were written by men who merely tried to white wash their ancestors and to justify the illegal and cruel methods by which the Negro was eliminated from politics. Dr. Taylor has

written with that restraint and care known only to the real scholar.

MAR 15 1941

In the discussion of the Negro in Tennessee Dr. Taylor has followed the wise course in treating the social as well as the economic forces at work in the state. He has endeavored to prove that the reconstruction period was not altogether political but it was economic and social. While there were men in conventions and in legislative halls discussing political measures and working out reforms, the forces outside of these which had worked in the home, in the schools, and in the churches as well as in the industries of the state finally determined what the political outcome would be. The book, moreover, presents something new, not in writing especially about the Negro but in projecting the Negro into the picture along with all other elements of the population. Other works on the reconstruction in Tennessee have merely referred to the Negro as a problem or an evil to be eradicated. In THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE the whole theater of reconstruction has been reproduced, and Tennessee has been made a part of a national drama.

One of the important contributions made in this study of Tennessee is the background of the present day achievements in that state. After reading this work the present aspects of Negro life become clarified by knowing the peculiar course which matters took in that state three generations ago. Valuable service has been rendered in interpreting the past in terms of the present and the present in terms of the past. The historian has looked forward, and while looking backward this history enables the reader to see in both directions.

The Psychology Of The Southerner

The Roots Of His Peculiar Mental Attitudes

MAR 2 1941
By Coleman Rosenberger

IN EXAMINING the social and mental pattern of the South, Mr. Cash approaches his subject on a score of fronts. He makes direct attacks, pauses to solidify his positions, engages in discursive flank movements, withdraws and approaches by another route. And when he has finished, it is apparent that Mr. Cash knew what he was about, and that the field is pretty well his own.

But perhaps the tactical metaphor is not the most appropriate. For unlike most writings on the South, past and present, this book is largely free from special pleading. Its author does not set out to debunk or to gild, to prove the South is or was this or that. His object seems to be as complete and as accurate an examination as possible of his subject, and he values objectivity—a quality always rare in writing on the South—as of the first importance in his intellectual equipment. Whatever Mr. Cash's limitations, they do not spring from any conscious desire to be less than honest, to exaggerate, to tell more or less than the precise truth. His limitations, such as they are, seem to have their origins in the fact that the author, for all his detachment, is still by birth and training a Southerner. There are Southern attitudes ingrained so deeply as not easily to be removed even by taking thought.

IT IS THE AUTHOR'S thesis, and I take it that this will not be seriously disputed, that the South (an area roughly equal to the States of the former Confederacy) has had and has now a mental and social pattern different from that of the rest of the Nation. It is this pattern, and its development, which Mr. Cash undertakes to examine. His book, which runs to some 430 pages, falls into three general parts. He considers the origin and development of the pattern in the Old South, its modifications in the middle years, and its survival and operation in our own time.

The first casualty is the myth of the Old South. The legend of the land peopled with gesturing aristocrats and, beneath them, a

mass of white "trash" has, of course, long since been dismissed by the historians. But (witness "Gone With the Wind") it persists in the thinking of many people. MAR 2 1941

Who were the aristocrats in their white columned mansions of the legends? Fine gentlemen were very few and very far between among the settlers of the new world. Even in Virginia, there was little "aristocracy" until after 1700, and the great South remained largely a backwoods wilderness until after the Revolutionary War. It was not until the second decade of the 1800s that the plantation system got really under way.

The Confederate "aristocracy," then, must have flowered from the frontier in some 40 or 50 years, or the handful of Virginia "aristocrats" must have multiplied fabulously in a generation or two and filled up the area. The truth, of course, as Mr. Cash points out in detail, is that the only extensive "aristocracy" in the Old South was that part of the population of the backcountry—with, mind you, few Cavaliers in its ancestry—which grew prosperous, with the extension of slave labor and the plantation system, on the cultivation of cotton.

And the white "trash?" They, as any serious historian knows, were the uncles and cousins of the aristocrats and were gradually but steadily pushed back by the plantation system on to the marginal lands. Their lives came to resemble an impoverished version of the life of the old backwoods.

The mental and social pattern, then, of the white "aristocrat" and the white "trash," alike, had its origin in the life of the frontier community and it must be remembered that it was only a generation or two from the frontier to Appomattox. It is necessary to keep this constantly in mind if one expects to understand the mind of the South. The basic Southerner was a rather simple, even rustic fellow: a long cry from the legendary Cavalier. This basic Southerner had all the individualism of the frontier farmer. He was given to vigilante action, natural to the frontier community with its minimum of social control. He had the simple man's love of rhetoric, his fondness for swagger and brag.

These characteristics marked the prospering planter no less than the backcountryman pushed to the marginal lands. The cotton

nouveaux riches became loud in the assertion of their aristocracy and their aristocratic origins; the poor, having little else, boasted their white skin. Thus, argues Mr. Cash, a William Yancey or a Barnwell Rhett was not "a mere poseur and a conscious demagogue . . . but a normal and ingenuous evocation from the character of a whole people." MAR 2 1941

ALWAYS there was the conflict with the Yankee. The South was on the defensive in many ways, and not least in the matter of the Negro. Here was the last country in the world to maintain human slavery, and the most unanalytical planter must sometimes have recognized that by brute force alone was the system maintained. So here again he protested overmuch. The sentimentalized version of slavery was promulgated with as much earnestness as the fiction of the Cavalier. For only fiction could satisfy the intense need for self justification.

If the antebellum South sought escape, how much more was it true after Appomattox. The claim to aristocracy was reasserted with even fiercer intensity. And perhaps the resurgence of violence was something of an escape, too. If, as Mr. Cash argues, lynching had originally little to do with race hatred (and he says that of the 300 persons hanged or burned by mobs between 1840 and 1860, less than 10 per cent were Negroes) now the old vigilantism was loosed almost exclusively against the Negro. Here was a mechanism of terror already at hand to coerce the former slave back into economic bondage. And, on the psychological level, it afforded an emotional release. One might prefer to lynch a Yankee, but that could be dangerous. But, writes Mr. Cash, "the killing of a Negro by a white man ceased, in practice, even to call for legal inquiry." Moreover:

"The old streak of brutality and cruelty began now to swell into definite sadism. There appears a waxing inclination to abandon such relatively mild and decent ways of dispatching the mob's victim as hanging and shooting in favor of burning, often of roasting over slow fires, after preliminary mutilations and tortures—a disposition to revel in the infliction of the most prolonged agonies."

Exaggeration? Go to the records. Then, surely, this was true only of the most irresponsible men

of the South? Alas, no. One could expect the Cole Bleases, the Cotton Ed Smiths, the Vardamans to defend lynchings; but it was John Temple Graves who was largely responsible for the great Atlanta race riot of 1907, and "it was John Sharpe Williams, in some respects one of the most notable men the South has produced since the Civil War . . . who disgraced himself in his last days in the Senate by openly defending lynching quite as though he were Cotton Ed Smith all over again."

If the ruling class had less than a sense of social responsibility toward the Negro, then, at least, there was something of a concern for the interests of the white laborer and farmer? It would be hard to find. Economic exploitation, political demagoguery was the pattern. The Bourbons maintained their power during the rise of the new industrialism by whatever means were necessary, and the demagogues served their interests in the legislatures. And the pattern, for all its modifications, for all the intellectual quickening, the broadening educational opportunities, the stirrings of organized labor, is still recognizable at the beginning of the fourth decade of the twentieth century. MAR 2 1941

BUT THIS is no summary of the book. Mr. Cash traces the pattern in all the aspects of Southern life. In Southern literature; in religion, with its story of the evangelical ministers and their power for intolerance, their anti-evolutionary drives, their baiting of labor. There is the history of the Democratic Party, with its hierarchy, its fear of schools, its connection with the Klu Klux Klan. There is the new legend of progress, the workings of the poll tax, the babbittism. And a score of other aspects. With all his evidence in, Mr. Cash concludes: "The basic picture of the South, I believe, is here."

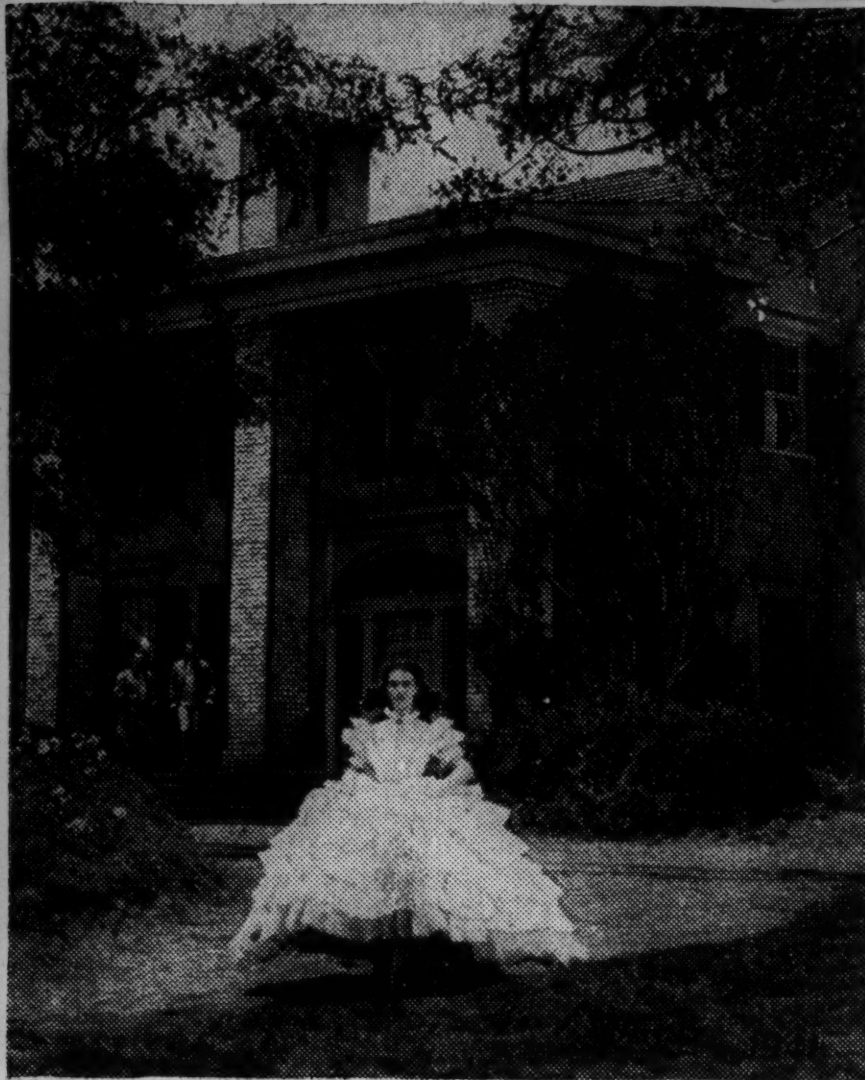
Whether the basic picture of the South can ever be encompassed in any single book, is open to dispute. But "The Mind of the South" is, I think, the best full length portrait of the region which has yet been produced. It is so good, indeed, that one could wish it were a little better. Mr. Cash is capable, for example, of dropping into the most uncritical Southern attitude toward the Reconstruction period, seeing no movement toward democracy and seeing the Negroes merely as

dupes of Yankee rascality.

Mr. Cash misunderstands, I think, the pattern of class antagonisms in the South. It is his specific thesis, which he develops at some length, that there has been no class awareness, that by the nature of things there has been little possibility of the development of such awareness—and this seems pretty wide of the mark. Again, the Populist movement, with its cooperation of Negro and white, is almost entirely disregarded. A figure so important to the understanding of the South as Tom Watson is given only the barest mention.

These are serious limitations. But, for all of them, the book represents the best of the new, sincere and candid self evaluation of the South, and, as such, "The Mind of the South" is a vastly important work.

"THE MIND OF THE SOUTH,"
by W. J. Cash. (Knopf, \$3.75.)



THE STUFF OF SOUTHERN FANTASY
A still from the \$4,000,000 Selznick movie,
"Gone With The Wind"

Telegraph Macon, Georgia The Other Half

HOW AMERICA LIVES, by J. C. Furnas and Staff of Ladies Home Journal Illustrated. Henry Holt & Co., New York. 372 pp. \$3. MAR 16 1941

Rabelais said that even in his time it was a proverb that "one half of the world knoweth not how the other half lives." This book is a factual, colorful and sympathetic picture of a few cross sections of American life and a very successful effort to show one half of the world how the other half lives.

The management of the Ladies Home Journal made a modest experiment in going into the homes and haunts of families with various incomes and telling the world how the Griffins, the Cases and the Handevids strive to make ends meet and educate the children or how to kill time if they have been wise enough to save for rainy days. The first articles were so popular that readers cried for more and here we have the series, richly illustrated by staff photographers who know all the fine points of their art.

We are not burdened with the statistics, but selection of these families, typical in each instance of its income bracket, was scientifically worked out and so we have a social and economic study of great value as well as a record of the folk ways which make interesting reading.

Those families range from Maine to California and from the Negro sharecropper in Mississippi, with a wife and 17 children, whose sense of humor rose above all hardships, to households which could afford to gratify every reasonable wish. MAR 16 1941

In a certain sense, it was a test as to how well democracy is working and the answer to that was, Pretty well, thank you. In another aspect it points the moral that the family next door has many admirable traits if you will only take the trouble to get acquainted. Through it all is the light touch, breaking occasionally in Homeric laughter, which makes easy reading. If Rabelais should come around, here is his answer and clearly the other half is well worth knowing whether as the product of our American system or just as plain folks.

—CHARLES J. BAYNE.

Times-Picayune New Orleans, La. POLITICIAN'S PICTURE

FROM HELL TO BREAKFAST. By Edward Kimbrough. Lippincott, \$2.50. MAR 23 1941

MISSISSIPPIAN Edward Kimbrough has created about the figure of a preacher politician (the foreword is careful to state that "no specific Mississippi politician is here portrayed") a novel packed with the interests of our times. He has taken the most colorful political figure in Mississippi of the last 20 years; added to events of that man's history the trick used by a leading vote-getter in another Southern state; altered slightly and mixed in certain family details; brought in voodoo, labor trouble, good red-neck dialect, scenes in a disorderly house, the regional flavor of Mississippi county towns—and the result is vividly realistic. MAR 23 1941

The book's chief weakness lies in the young-love slant and in the characterization of Jerry Clinton, Senator Roberts' political opponent. There are spots in which the first-novel style betrays itself in lack of proper timing or in needless stress of details. The characters might have talked more, the novelist less. But on the whole, events move well. The senator's indulgence in evangelism is unique, even among the Elmer Gantrys of modern fiction. Attention to Southern Fascism is timely, and avoids flag waving.

Newport News, Va. Press
March 23, 1941

DR. W. A. AERY CONTRIBUTES TO YEAR-BOOK

The 26th edition of the "American Year-Book," just published in New York, includes a comprehensive chapter on "The Education of American Negroes," written by Dr. William Anthony Aery, former professor and director of education at Hampton Institute.

This year book presents a survey of the year 1940 in the 27 major fields of activity. It narrates the events and developments in the United States during the year which are judged to be of significance to Americans.

Dr. Aery's 6,000-word contribution on Negro education covers a variety of topics, including the fol-

lowing: education and defense, elementary and secondary education, junior college and higher education, Howard university, Hampton and Tuskegee institutes, land-grant colleges, graduate and teacher education; general education board, Julius Rosenwald fund, C. C. C. education, and national youth programs.

Dr. Aery received no remuneration for his contribution. However, he received again, as he has every year since 1936, an inscribed document "in grateful recognition of signal



CONTRIBUTOR

Dr. W. A. Aery, a resident of Hampton and a former professor and director of education at Hampton Institute, was one of the contributors to the "American Year-Book," which has just been published in New York. He is author of a chapter on "The Education of American Negroes."

material contributed to the American Year-Book, dedicated to the promotion of knowledge of America's cultural values."

The book is edited by William M. Schuyler and Albert Bushnell Hart, with the cooperation of a supervisory board representing various

8-1941

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

Sometimes Sad And Sometimes Gay,

The South As Will Percy Sees It

MAR 16 1941

LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE, by William Alexander Percy, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, price \$3.00.

William Alexander Percy is a poet. LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE, subtitled Recollections of a Planter's Son, is more elaborate proof of his genuine poetic abilities than any of his volumes of poetry.

The fine, bland style of Percy's story-telling art has enormously enriched this volume. A typical example of this deft handling of the anecdote form is Percy's account of one of his early negro playmates. Quote:

"One in particular drifts back to me across long years. It was one of those still, hot days when earth things lie tranced at the bottom of a deep sea of summer sun. We were resting on our oars at the moment. Far, far up buzzards circled dreamily, their black wings motionless, tilting, banking, coasting in wide arcs, some-nambulistic symbols of the drowse and delight of deep summer. Watching them, Skillet observed in a singing: 'If they was to ever light, the world would burn up.' As the birds seemed fixed at their vast altitude, this was a safe prophecy. But I was sceptical, as could have been expected of any horrid, little white realist. Skillet, though, was so eloquent in citing the reasons and authorities that my disbelief weakened and by degrees I was convinced, for the old excellent reason that I wanted to be. As we watched, the buzzards, careening and narrowing their circles, began to descend. It was exciting to see them drop lower and lower and to think what might happen. At last we could discern their horrible necks and heads, Skillet rose in a kind of ecstasy, thrusting out his arms, flexing his knees, and chanting: 'Don't let 'em light, God, don't let 'em light.' The flames of a consuming world were practically around us. Only the fire music as it came to Mime about the time Selgfried rushed in with the bear could have expressed our abject and delicious terror. They were hovering over our own back yard and, last touch of horror, there lay one of Mere's chickens dead—indeed, more than dead—their target, stark and untidy on the crust of the earth so unconcerned and so doomed. One of the ghastly creatures suddenly rocked, flapped its wings, and settled down awkwardly on the fence between us and the Fergusen's. 'Look, I told you so, the world didn't burn up,' I almost sobbed, torn between relief and disappointment. 'He lit on a fence. He ain't never teched the ground,' whispered Skillet. The buzzard gave an ungainly bound and landed on the

too, too solid earth. 'Look,' I wailed. 'He lit on a chip,' Skillet observed affably. I was outraged.

Mr. Percy has lived a full and generous life. He was a reflective and well schooled youth, and yet he attended few formal academies before his final year at college. There is obvious joy in his recounting of his experiences with several splendid teachers who regarded their pupil as a personality to be shown the joys of a keen curiosity and the virtue of a fine tolerance. Mr. Percy learned his lessons well.

Accordingly, he has deep contempt for certain traits which he believes have been ingrained in modern youth. With something akin to anger he jabs at the strait jacket of formalized religion today and argues that the only hope for the world of decency and tolerance, the only world in which civilization in its true sense can flourish, is for some body of men to begin preaching and living the simple doctrine that there is no unity except in the unity of brotherhood, no brotherhood without a common father. "What we need is live words, tender with meaning and assurance."

Mr. Percy is now a plantation owner. He confesses to a vast naivete about the world of commerce in which he is a more or less unwilling citizen. But that fact makes the man even more understandable, the man who gradually takes firm shape out of the record of a somewhat shapeless life. Mr. Percy has never set a single course and pursued it with emotional abandon to the ultimate dry end. He delights in the fact.

But Will Percy's life is a candid, sometimes sad, sometimes gay, study of the South. The book has none of the confused drivel of the academic sociologist but it is a more valuable contribution to the records of South's present and past and even something of prophecy for the future than a thousand such abstract studies by zealous academicians.—R. F. H. JR.

Washington Post
Washington, D; C.

"Something New Out of Africa"

MAR 16 1941

By W. L. Schurz

NEGLEY FARSON went to Africa a year before things broke in Europe. In the old German colonies of Southwest Africa, Tanganyika and Uganda, he found communities of efficient and uncompromising Nazis, prospering under the tolerance of Boer and British rule, and, for all practical purposes, governed from Berlin. He crossed the southern end of Africa from Walvis Bay around through the Union to Durban. From Dar-es-Salaam he crossed westward by Kenya and the Belgian Congo to the Atlantic at Duala in the Cameroons and wound up in an earthquake at Accra on the Gold Coast. He and his wife traveled from one side of the continent to another in a Ford V-8 and without the indispensable servant "boy."

No other book written in this generation contains so much sound information and so interestingly presented about Africa. Since the Dark Continent is one of the major prizes of the present war, this first-hand description of colonial administration, Boer, British, Belgian, French—and German—is particularly timely. The various systems run the whole gamut from systematic exploitation to an almost idyllic paternalism. Though the Boers keep the blacks of the South African Union in a state of servitude, they allow no white in the large preserve of Ovambo-land. The British maintain the Tanganyika mandate for the benefit of the blacks and even discourage colonization by their own citizens.

In Uganda, British officials supervise the actions of the native chiefs, who are the real rulers. A small minority of "Elizabethan" Englishmen have defied the home government in their determination to make the Kenya highlands white man's country. On the Guinea coast the British administration has enabled thousands of small independent native planters to grow cacao for the world market, as the British have encour-

aged the Chagas of Uganda in the development of their remarkable coffee cooperatives.

The Belgian Congo is big business applied to the African problem. The four allied Belgian companies have developed the great colony on a scale unknown in any other tropical establishment in the world. The Negroes have been put on "the endless belt of modern progress," but in return they are kept healthy and well fed, two conditions which seem rare in this sick and undernourished continent.

The French colonial administration varies between capricious restriction and virtual social and economic equality. As for the Germans—every Negro in their former colonies dreads the possibility of their return.

Though English policy appears muddled at times, it is certainly the most consistently humane of all the colonial systems in Africa. However, as one reads this book, he may wonder if there is any practicable and common-sense solution to Africa's problem. If the Europeans withdrew, they would leave the natives to the oppression of their own petty despots—or to the calculating greed of the Indians. This fecund and insinuating race is swarming like locusts over the eastern side of the continent, and wherever they go they completely absorb the economic life of the region.

The reader gains a great sympathy for the harassed colonial officials of Britain who try to solve these apparently insoluble problems. For they are able to please nobody. But Africa's natural resources have been very much exaggerated and perhaps she is not worth all the trouble that Europeans go to for the sake of having colonies—or to keep others from having them.

To those who imagine that all African peoples are alike, Farson has some surprises. There are vivid descriptions of the many tribes that he encountered—the remnants of the hunted Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert; the Hereros, whose women he called "the most beautiful women I found in

Africa;" the haughty Masai, "the most beautifully built men in Africa, perhaps in the world;" the Chagas, "the most intelligent (and unpleasant) tribe of natives in all Africa;" the Uganda women, whom he called "the best dressed in Africa;" the gigantic Watutsi, the tallest men in the world; the pygmies of the Ituri forest, and the wretched tribe in the French Congo, of whom he said: "These people were the most horrible human types I have seen anywhere in the world."

His African pageant includes scenes of great natural beauty, like his first view of snowcapped Meru in a far-off blue haze; some of the best animal stories in many a book, like that of the daredevil Belgian officer who drove off lions by throwing clods at them, and accounts of heroism and devotion, and of the disintegration of men in the face of a hostile environment. Though it is a three-star book as it stands, the inclusion of some of the author's photographs would have added an extra star.

BOOK REVIEWS

MAR 23 1941

The reward of national recognition has come to Dr. H. M. Bond, the distinguished scholar and educator, because of his unusual ability in the production of his recent work "Negro Education in Alabama" (Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C., price \$3). This book has been crowned with the stamp of excellence by the American Educational Research Association, a department of the National Education Association of the United States. This work has been selected by its committee of awards as one of the six best pieces of research in the field of education for the three years from 1936-1939. The other scholars of the country honored along with Dr. Bond are Dr. H. M. Bell of the American Youth Commission, Professor Guy T. Bushwell of the University of Chicago, Professor Leslie L. Chisholm of Columbia University, Professor Fletcher Harper Swift of the University of California, and Professor L. L. Thurstone of the University of Chicago.

The procedure in making these awards was like this: Nomination of researchers to be considered were solicited from the members of the American Educational Research Association and from major graduate departments of education in colleges and universities. The persons addressed were asked to make nominations from studies published during the calendar years of 1936 through 1939, but the statement was made that studies of an earlier date would also be considered. The list of nominations resulting from this procedure was submitted to a large number of persons who were asked to evaluate the studies within their respective fields of competence. In addition one or more members of the committee examined each research which a preliminary tabulation of ratings indicated as deserving of careful consideration. MAR 23 1941

It is very timely that Dr. Bond has been given recognition for his most record-breaking and epoch-making work on "Negro Education in Alabama." This book has been misunderstood; and only a few persons beyond the circle of serious scholars have learned what it is about. When they look at the title, they think that Dr. Bond has given the usual account

of the rise and progress of the schools in Alabama and of their founders. The book is not concerned with such a simple or elementary account. Dr. Bond has given a brief treatment to such serious matters as the education of the Negro under the peculiar institution of slavery, the social forces of the reconstruction period, the effect of politics of that time on the system, and its objective and content. He has been primarily concerned with the larger problems which determined whether there should be any edu-

cation in Alabama for Negroes or even for whites. These determining factors, as he has so ably shown, were cotton and steel, in the development of which participated the overthrown ex-confederates in cooperating with Clews, Morgan, and Jay Cooke who used these ex-confederates as corruptionists in developing industry and building railroads at the expense of the state and of impoverished people. Here we have a new story of not only Alabama but of the entire South—a new chapter in the history of the Negro upon whose shoulders has been unjustly laid the blame for all of the corruption in the South after the Civil War. MAR 23 1941

This is not the first honor which Dr. Bond has received for his excellent research. "Negro Education in Alabama" was awarded the Susan Colver Rosenberger Prize of the University of Chicago in 1937 when it was produced and presented there is a dissertation to meet the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Words of praise for this piece of research have come not only from professors of that particular institution but from all leading scholars engaged in educational and historical research in this country and abroad. The consensus of opinion is that it is of such a high order that it marks an epoch in educational research in the United States. This author has lifted the task of the study of education above the level of merely compiling the enrollment, attendance, the number of graduates, and the cost of maintaining schools. Through this book we see education as a force in the life of the people and the various factors which have determined what that education should be. Dr. Bond is now serving as president of Fort Valley college in

Georgia, as the successor of the late H. A. Hunt. Because of the high estimate of Dr. Bond's ability foundations are now giving considerable sums for the larger development of that institution. Yet, when one thinks of the many persons who may function successfully in educational administration and of the few who are qualified for independent research, one must express his regret that Dr. Bond is no longer available for such serious investigation as he has shown himself capable of doing. Sometimes we have the wrong way of showing our appreciation for scholarship. Dean Charles Homer Haskins of Harvard University once expressed this regret by saying: "In America as soon as a man learns enough to write a book, some university will make him a bookkeeper. He meant, of course, that he is made an administrative officer who will have to spend most of his time with the details that almost anybody can easily take care of. C. G. WOODSON.

News

Birmingham, Ala.

The Sharecropper Sometimes Lives In The Big Cities

MAR 23 1941

SHARECROPPERS ALL, by Arthur F. Raper and Ira De A. Reid. Illustrated. Published by The University of North Carolina Press; 281 pages; \$3.

PERHAPS THE MOST heartening fact in the whole disheartening truth about the present-day South is the fact that we Southerners are facing the truth and not flinching. We don't like it, goodness knows; but we're not running away. We're having a good look.

Two of the best informed and most intelligent examiners have written a book about their findings. The two are Dr. Arthur F. Raper, research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and Dr. Ira De A. Reid, of the faculty of Atlanta University.

Looking at the South as it is today, these two men find that "most Southern communities are essentially feudalistic." The revealing phrase "my workers" may be heard in factory and downtown office building as well as at the end of the cotton rows. The company store of the mill village is not unlike the commissary, the factory supervisor not unlike the plantation overseer.

"But the parallel does not stop with the factory town, or with the South, and the significance is national, for only a little less dependent and insecure than the South's landless farmers are chain-store clerks, salesmen, insurance agents, taxi drivers, and filling station operators; while the city's casual la-

borers and domestic servants receive but little more pay and have little more protection of civil rights than do plantation wage hands and migratory farm laborers."

After having so clearly stated their beliefs, the authors then tell of innumerable distressing facts to prove their contentions. Furthermore they are not content merely to talk in generalities; they are forever citing examples, giving statistics,

that will seriously disturb any man with an interest in the South and a hope of some day seeing it free itself from its present economic shackles. MAR 23 1941

"Sharecroppers All" is a moving book that deserves a careful reading. It is the kind of book that may bring about concerted and intelligent action from the leaders in Southern communities.

NEW YORK

New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

MAR 22 1941

DUNBAR CRITICALLY EXAMINED—by Victor Lawson, Professor of English at Virginia Union University; The Associated Publishers, Washington, D. C.

A critical evaluation of the works of Paul Lawrence Dunbar written as a Master's thesis for the English Department of Howard University. The author, Victor Lawson, is aiming to find the place of Dunbar in the field of American letters dealing with both the prose and poetry which he wrote.

THE FIRST NEGRO MEDICAL Society—by W. Montague Cobb, A.B., M.D., Ph.D.; The Associated Publishers, Washington, D.C., \$2.10

The history of the Negro in American Medicine has always received too little attention by the medical historians. Dr. Cobb has presented in his book an account of the first Negro medical society formed in America and likely in the world. He feels that the understanding of the progress of organized Negro medicine is closely associated with the organization of this society and its further development.

MAR 22 1941

THE PLANTATION SOUTH—by William C. Holley, Helen Winston, T. J. Wooster, jr., Division of Research Works Project Administration; U. S. Government Printing Office.

"The Plantation South" is a comprehensive study of the recent changes in plantation organization and operation in the South. Two hundred and forty

six plantations were used as a basis for a survey of the crop

year 1934. The findings were reported in the Research monograph "Landlord and Tenant on the Cotton Plantation. In 1937 this survey was repeated with the same group of plantations and after the voluntary crop control program of 1937 had been initiated. Thus the cotton acreage was particularly large and the climatic conditions such that the yield was unusually large. Tenants as well as landlords improved their financial status in the period between the surveys, but even in 1937 the cropper and share tenant net income, including home use production, averaged only about \$400 per family. An increase in the use of mechanized power, and the acreage operated under wage labor at the expense of share tenant and renter labor, together with the pressure of population on economic opportunity, help to explain the ure f population on economic op-

present widespread unemployment and underemployment in the rural South. The rural South is also at a disadvantage in comparison with the other sections of the country with respect to living conditions and community institutions. Inadequate nutrition constitutes a basic problem. They are handicapped by inadequate educational facilities both among the older generation and the rising generation as well. High rates of illness are related to the poor housing, inadequate sanitary facilities, meager diets and the lack of adequate social services.

MAR 22 1941
A commission appointed by President Roosevelt in 1937 to report on these conditions in the South characterized the region as economic problem number one.

8-1941

South African Outlook Lovedale, South Africa

New Books

Select Bibliography of South African Native Life and Problems, by I. Schapera. (Oxford University Press, London: Humphrey Milford, 12/6).

The passing years have seen interest in South African Native life and problems become intense and widespread, so that literature dealing with such matters has become very extensive. Research workers, whether attempting to trace some subject through the centuries of the country's history or confining themselves to a more restricted period, find themselves embarrassed by the number of publications with which they are confronted. And even so, much other literature that might be available is buried in articles contributed to periodical publications, not always easy to trace. The Inter-University Committee for African Studies, with its usual watchful care for research workers, decided in 1936 that a selected bibliography of the South African Native peoples be prepared for publication so that research workers might be familiar with what has already been written about their subject of interest. Professor Schapera was appointed to direct the matter, and the book now under review is the result. The Bibliography is intended to provide a convenient guide to at least the more important publications about the various aspects of Native life in South Africa. It is divided into five main sections: Physical Anthropology, Archaeology, Ethnography, Modern Status and Conditions, and Linguistics. The Bibliography does not claim to be exhaustive. Its sole object, we are told, is to direct attention to sources which, because of their actual content or special historical interest, ought to be consulted by anybody making a fairly close study of some phases of tribal culture, or of the problems arising from the contacts between Europeans and Natives. Many more books and articles have been written about the Native peoples of South Africa than are actually listed in the volume. "Some have possibly escaped our notice, and their omission must be ascribed to ignorance; but a considerable number have been deliberately excluded, because they were not deemed sufficiently important." The scope of the book is limited to books published in 1938 or previously.

Professor Schapera and his collaborators are to be congratulated on an extremely comprehensive survey which will be of immense help to research students and others. Well over 2,000 works are listed. We have tested the book from various angles and have been gratified by its fullness. This, however, is not to say that there are no serious omissions. It is not adequate to have so voluminous

and able a writer on Native affairs as the late Dr. James Stewart represented by one end, a small grammar. Dr. Neil Macvicar is also represented by one item. And Father Godfrey Callaway, whose books have helped many to an understanding of South African Native life and conditions, is not represented at all, and the same must be said of other outstanding missionary writers like John Bennie, William Shaw, John Philip, Robert Moffat, David Livingstone, William Govan and Henry Calderwood. We feel that quite a number of the modern items could be sacrificed, if need be, so as to ensure the inclusion of the more valuable work of stalwarts of the past.

R.H.W.S.

Kansas City, Mo.
Kansas City, Mo.

BOOK REVIEW

Synopsis and Criticism

SHARECROPPERS ALL, by Arthur F. Raper and Ira DeA Reid, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1941. 281 pp. Price \$3.00.

"Why should we work? We don't get nothin', but a livin' nohow!" This significant statement typifies the description of the plantation economy as told in the documentary report of two eminent sociologists. Low wages, insecurity, lack of opportunity for self-direction and responsible participation in community affairs, are the real meanings of the term "sharecropper."

Although farm tenancy changes with the mechanical tractor and the AAA crop-control system, it remains substantially the same and is characterized by poor schools and churches, the evils of the poll-tax, wage differentials, and a system of racial suppression and racial fear.

"Two-thirds of the landless farmers in the country are in the south, where there is but one-third of the nation's farm land, and less than half of its farm population. Two-thirds of the south's farm tenants are white who are found on the rich black lands of the region penalized. Less than half the where slave plantations were largest and where Negro freedmen were most numerous. The landless farmers, until they began to be displaced by unemployed whites who preferred the tenant cabins to unemployed families who are exploited is

Cheap virgin land in the western frontier, slave labor, commercial fertilizer, the boll-weevil and broken terrain have been the forces in the migration of cotton across the map from the northeast to the southwest. The government has propped up the system with loans as cotton shifted to more productive regions, crop-fixing programs, crop - control and other aids have been extended to the areas as debts have mounted and foreclosures have risen.

When these changes take place, the white tenants move into the poorer lands after being "traced off" the rich land and being "blown out" of the Dust Bowl. They are prevented from migrating to the wealthy cities by the high rates of unemployment there.

The dispossessed Negro, barred from the poor lands, heads toward the city to swell the relief rolls and to feel the pressure whites call Negro jobs. Black Shirts, Blue Shirts, Silver Shirts, Ku Klux Klan and other vigilantes and patrioteers support the purpose of the land-tenure system to keep the Negro "in his place." Twice as many white families as Negroes are being rich black lands of the region penalized. Less than half the where slave plantations were largest and where Negro freedmen were most numerous. The landless farmers, until they began to be displaced by unemployed whites who preferred the tenant cabins to unemployed families who are exploited is

the Negro's lot is fixed by racial factors which make him dependent and servile and the whites' status is fixed by economic factors which force him to compete with the landless Negro for a tenant farm.

Well stated by the Institute of Southern Regional Development at Chapel Hill in 1937, "One of the most obvious reasons for the social and economic retardation of the South, is the unwillingness of the white man to face the fact that his own fate and the fate of the region as a whole are inseparable from the fate of the Negro."

New forces like the Southern Tenant Farmers' union, the Delta Co-operative Farm, the Birmingham Conference, the Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and many private social work and public welfare agencies are beginning to realize that these disinherited masses - white and Negro - must be released to their full status, less they remain forever sharecroppers all.

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

"FATHER OF THE BLUES," W. C. Handy, Macmillan Company New York; \$3.50.

Edited by Arna Bontemps and with a foreword by Abe Niles, W. C. Handy's autobiography, "Father Of The Blues," published July 1, by Macmillan Company is written in easy style, although somewhat disconnected in presentation of events, of the reminiscences of the "Father of the Blues."

Beginning with his birth in Florence, Ala., eight years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, the famous musician, told how his father, a Calvinist, had hoped that he would follow the family trend and become a minister, despite the fact that he had decided on a musical career for himself.

Rudiments of music, Handy says, taught by the sol fa system in grade school served as the basis for whatever technical knowledge he has since acquired and prepared him to listen for and

notate unusual musical sounds which resulted in his discovery of what went into the making of the Blues.

In his book, he traces his rise and fall and rise again in the publishing business, tells of how 48 years ago he left the South with a quartet, making his way Columbian Exposition, only to find the Fair postponed for another year. Yet forty years later he took a bow there to the applause of 125,000 people. As a member of ASCAP, he appeared on programs Treasure Island, San Francisco, and the New York Worlds Fair and tells of the thrills he received.

All in all, the book is worth having, for it is the story of one of the race's most loved characters, W. C. Handy.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

LET MY PEOPLE GO. The Story of the Underground Railroad and the Growth of the Abolition Movement. By Henrietta Buckmaster. Harper and Brothers. \$3.50.

Had Miss Buckmaster lived in the era of which she writes she undoubtedly would have been in front rank of Abolitionists. Her bibliography is of impressive proportions, and her researches are evidently vast; but hers is not the zeal of the impartial student. It is that of the reformer and humanitarian. Coupled with her vivid realization of the thoughts and feelings of others and her talent for retelling what she has gleaned, it has produced a volume to sweep the reader's feet. Authenticated in every detail, it lacks only the perception that the South also had a point of view to make it a work of great distinction.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

"And They Lynched Him On A Tree"

Poem by Katherine Garrison Chapin.

Music by William Grant Still.
For white chorus, Negro chorus, contralto, narrator and orchestra.

Published by J. Fischer & Bro., New York.

Reviewed by Randolph Smith, Mus. Bac.

This is a composition of more than passing interest and may adequately serve as timely musical intercession and pleading in musical effects for the discontinuance of that tragedy and blight on American democracy which might prove much more effective if present day chorus directors would use it often enough where there is the right kind of audience than mere Congressional lobbying.

Opening with an orchestral introduction of vital rhythmic energy, it swings into its first full (white) chorus with

"We've swung him higher than the tallest pine
We've cut his throat so he ain't goin' ter whine."

Men's voices also have a part of this opening which is followed by a Narrator whose voice is accompanied by orchestra with continuing rhythmic vitality even though the meter is changed, and with the second entrance of the chorus "Come along home", the tragic scene is laid for greater dramatic music of deniable poignancy beginning page 14. "Oo Lord dere! Is that a shadow?"—"Is day all gone?" Sung by Negro Chorus is this depicting of the direst impressionism; "Creep softly, here's de limb! and here's de tree! The drama now passes to a contralto solo "Oh sorrow, you've taken my hand". Women's voices join this by humming—men now take it up and later joined by women with the ceaseless painting of sorrow builds up great emotional climaxes which will (leave no one cold). To describe further would be futile.

In the Final the white and Negro chorus join in singing, "They left him hanging for the world to pass by, but a bloody sun will rise in a bloody sky."

All this is poignant dramatic music which can be sung by any of the many well trained chorus of the Negro race and we highly recommend it as one of the most appealing bits of writing we have reviewed in recent times. The orchestral part is arranged for piano and performance of the whole composition is approximately 19 minutes.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.
TWO AFRICAS

MUMBO JUMBO, ESQUIRE. By James Saxon Childers. Appleton. \$5.00.

OF COURSE, WE know about Africa. There are elephants and hyenas and giraffes and flooded rivers and pygmies. Osa Johnson and others have described it accurately for us. Then there is another Africa we know something about but do not believe. Rider Haggard used to help us pass rainy afternoons of our boyhood by spinning breath-taking yarns about King Solomon's mines and tremendous adventures and ivory-handled battle-axes.

Now comes Mr. Childers and really begins to tell us about Africa itself, not just about the animals, although there are plenty of animal incidents. (He once drove away a charging rhinoceros by throwing his hat at it!) He shows us magnificent ruins that have no recorded or even legendary history, ruins that leave the question wide open as to whether Rider Haggard might not have been just exaggerating instead of inventing.

Then he tells of an Africa with beautiful modern cities, all complete with air-conditioning, moving pictures (but you must reserve your seat in advance), department stores and beauty parlors and miles of asphalted streets. "A Book About the Two Africas" is the subtitle; and it is hard to say which he makes the more interesting, the wild Africa we always knew about or the highly civilized one we seldom imagined.

This is not a book to read from cover to cover all in one gulp. Some of the chapters are of normal length, some are less than half a page; but each is complete in itself. On one page you are holding your breath to see what the lion will do, on the next trying to convince the bell-boy in an ultra-modern hotel that you really do not wish tea for breakfast.

Read the book slowly and savor it; but if you enjoy well-written travel books, you must certainly read it.

—K. C. McI.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Father of the Blues

JUL 13 1941

By
W. C. Handy

"UP FROM
SLAVERY" in
Musicland

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
Historic Home.

HOME BY THE RIVER, by Archibald Rutledge. Bobbs-Merrill Company, New York. 198 pp. Illustrated.

This is a book which you must see to appreciate. Mere writing about it cannot properly describe it, its pictures, its contents.

It is the story of Hampton Plantation, its 2,000 acres spread along the southern shores of the Santee river in coastal South Carolina. And Hampton has been in Rutledge hands since 1686. It is now the home of Archibald Rutledge, who tells its story here.

Beautifully composed, printed, illustrated and bound, it will find its rightful place on many library tables in the south. Nor will it be passed by in the east and north.

The Swamp Fox of the Revolution made Hampton his headquarters. From it was stolen the parish Bible and prayer book by the British Colonel Banastre Tarleton; here lived Edward Rutledge, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Rutledge, noted Governor of his state, when Washington toured the south and stayed at Hampton.

But it is not only history that the author gives. You see Hampton Plantation as it is today. You see the people who inhabit it, the Negroes there, the house, its interiors, its outside, its furnishings, its beauty and that of the grounds and the lands about it. The wild life, bird, fowl and beast, are not neglected, the wild turkey, the deer and the moccasin, among others.

In three important fields this is a book to hold the reader's attention: As a source book in negro biography, as an authentic narrative of an itinerant orchestra, as a historical record of a radical change in popular music throughout the world. It is the life story of the man who composed "The Memphis Blues," progenitor of all the jazz, swing and boogie music.

This is the story from the beginning to the present day of an American shrine. And adequately done, too. For more of it, you must see it and read it.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

LAWS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF THE LAST SESSION OF THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS (NOVEMBER 7, 1864-MARCH 18, 1865) TOGETHER WITH THE SECRET ACTS OF PREVIOUS CONGRESSES. With an Introduction and a Bibliographical Note. By Charles W. Ramsdell, Editor. Illustrated. xxvii + 183 pp. Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press. \$2.50.

W H A R E a World War of growing proportions rages, most of the "lost" public and secret laws and joint resolutions of the government in another war are here printed after seventy-five years of oblivion. The laws of the final session were not published at the time because of the flight of the government. The secret acts were deliberately withheld from contemporary publication. Only one act of the final session is still missing, together with four of the secret acts and resolutions passed by the Confederate Congress from Feb. 4, 1861, to June 14, 1864.

With the exception of contemporary publication in some cases, eighteen of the public acts here given have been published previously and fifteen of the secret acts. Most of the "lost" acts were "found" either in the George Washington Flowers Memorial

Collection of Duke University or in the National Archives in Washington.

The work of collecting and editing this collection here printed was "an absorbing adventure" which also involved much digging and piecing together. This work has been done in Dr. Ramsdell's usual thorough, painstaking manner. The result is a valuable addition to the history of the Southern Confederacy.

There is a careful and informative historical introduction, a bibliographical note and a good index. Each law or resolution is identified as to its present locality whether printed or unprinted.

THOMAS ROBSON HAY.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE NEGRO. By Malcolm S. MacLean. Pamphlet. New York: The American Committee on the Intellectual Freedom. 1941. 10 cents.

A study of some of the problems of higher education for Negroes.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE NEGRO IN THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT. By Herbert Aptheker. Pamphlet. New York: International Publishers. 15 cents. 1941

A study by the author of "The Negro in the Civil War."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

I HEARD A BLACK MAN SING LAST NIGHT. By Earl O. Pamphlet. New York: National Education Department of the International Workers Order, 80 Fifth Avenue. 5 cents.

A poem.

8-1941

Kansas City, Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Novelist Not Interested In Negroes Who Are Successful

Nov 2 1941

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — "I'm not interested in writing about those Negroes who succeeded," declared William Attaway last Thursday evening before an audience at the Harlem library.

Attaway's forthright statement came as a result of the criticism which had come from the commentators that in his book "Blood on the Forge," Attaway had written effectively and beautifully about those Negroes who were destroyed by the forces in the steel industry, but had neglected to write about the thousands of Negroes who had successfully come to grips with their problems and had triumphed.

This lively exchange in which the audience also took part followed Attaway's revealing story as to why and how he wrote Blood on the Forge, his second novel, which is so widely read these days. The boyish looking writer, who has not yet turned 30, described in graphic detail the epic story of the three brothers who came from the south to the steel mills of the north.

Their story is part of the great American epic of the Negroes who went north during world war number one. Attaway says that at first he intended "just to do a study" but the stirring story proved too strong for a sociological treatise.

After the novelist had told his story, the three critics, Dr. Samuel Sillen of New York university, Editor Roy Wilkins of the Crisis and short story writer Ralph Ellison of the League of American Writers jumped into the discussion to point out whether Attaway had been successful in doing what he had set out to do and whether, after all, it was worth doing.

Attaway's appearance marked the first in this season's "Evenings with Negro Authors." This popular feature is organized and conducted by the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the New York Public library.

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

The Prisoners

HOUSE OF FURY. By Felice Swados. 263 pp. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc. \$2.

IN this unusual story of girls in a penal institution there is laid bare all the emotional relationships, the crushes, hates, comedies, and even horrors, which are all the inmates have to compensate for the everyday life of the world on the other side of the high picket fence. In rapid sequence the doubts, despairs and hates are staged. The full impact derived from the overwrought personalities and the friction between the white and the Negro is swiftly presented. The square, red houses of the institution looked like a colonial village to the passer-by, but to the girls it had the grim, harsh, dreary and oppressive appearance that all institutions have.

There is a foreboding of violence in the still Summer evening on which the story opens. The girls lounging around, sitting cross-legged on the floor playing jacks, holding hands, talking; girls of quickly changing moods, never knowing what to expect, with no control over themselves, always ready to explode. These are the prisoners trying to make lives behind the high fence; their normal outlets for love and hatred checked; their aspirations muffled.

The girls are different, but the reasons and causes for their being shut in from the outside are very similar. Daisy, frightened; Tony with the lonely air, teasing and joking; Doll, good-natured and maternal; Pat, vicious, jealous, but knowing all that seethes in the girls' minds; Jeff, a graduate and monitor, free to go at

any time. These socially and intellectually submerged girls, pitting their young ideals and courage against overwhelming odds, struggling with almost unbelievable fortitude, are too real to have been just imagined. These girls, slashed by overwrought desires and ambitions, cringing and whining, are always aware of the warehouse: "It's only a warehouse; they keep sugar and ham there. But it used to be a clink with real cells, and if anybody raised hell they'd get thrown in the jug. Look at the bars on the windows."

On the other side of the grounds are the Negro girls, an attractive, yet repelling, evil. Like men, they were thought of as evil by the white girls. There is Bluebell, envied by the others for her long, soft, straight hair; no grease busting for Bluebell. Bluebell is determined to escape: "I've got to get out; I've got to. I'm gonna be a singer. But not here. Not here, locked up in a cage. It makes me choke. The words git drowned in my throat." Orchid, wearied of washing and ironing, is anxious to knock a trot—escape—with Bluebell. Bonnie just wanting friendship.

The fury that is fed by fear and restraint is given a chance to break loose when Bluebell and Orchid escape. The chapters dealing with the two girls escaping have all the brutal and crude details found in Clarke, Farrell and Cain. The sensational escape and capture bring about repercussions that change the life of each girl involved: Tony finds responsibility; Jeff finds release from fear; Bonnie finds the first friendship she has ever known. As a result of the escape the total of all the smouldering tensions bursts in a vivid climax, with the girls throwing off their restrictions and yielding to the tempestuous overflowing of passions long suppressed.

Nov 2 1941

The author seems very sure of her material, and the primal, amoral intensity of life in a cor-



Felice Swados.

Nov 2 1941

rective school is sympathetically told. For sheer cyclonic pace the book is unusual.

GEORGE FROEDE.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.
Southern Editor

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH, by J. W. Cash. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.75.

FEB 25 1941

THERE are features of this work that are commendable but there are others, many and important, which are the opposite, and which force one to take a decidedly negative stand on the book as a whole.

Concerning the former, it is refreshing to see an influential white Southerner (Mr. Cash is associate editor of the Charlotte, N. C., *News*) bluntly characterize the slave system as "terrible, revolting." Similarly the poisonous influence of the attempted suppression of all anti-slavery thought and activity in the life of the South, politically, socially, and culturally, is developed in a forthright manner. There is, too, no blinking the ugly truth concerning the abominable conditions that have prevailed during the present century for the rural and urban Southern masses, no flinching in excoriating the poll-tax demagogues—Bilbo, Glass, Reynolds, et al.—no hesitancy in placing the deprivation of civil liberties, the terrorism, the venomous anti-unionism (all that is symbolized by the Ku Klux Klan), at the feet of the master groups in the South.

Three main deficiencies, however, vitiate much of the work's usefulness. First, it is a fact that one of the facets of Southern thinking that has been most striking, political theory, is almost totally neglected, so that key figures like Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Cooper, and John C. Calhoun receive nothing more than parenthetical notice, while others, including outstanding individuals such as John Taylor, James Madison, and George Fitzhugh, are not even mentioned.

Second, for over 200 years Negroes have formed from one-third to one-half of the total population of the South, and have done all the things the whites have done, from conquering the frontier to writing poetry, from struggling for a better life to creating music. Although all this is manifestly true, one is never made aware of even the existence of these millions of people except for an occasional aside as to how they allegedly affected the whites. They appear as mere props, mannequins, and, indicative of the author's attitude, are referred to, when noticed, in typical cliché fashion as "creatures of grandiloquent imagination, of facile emotion," as "ignorant and ductile." Mr. Cash has the audacity to assert of his work that "The basic picture of the South is here, I believe," though he hasn't

even tried to cover one-third of his subject!

A final fundamental failing, from which are derived many major and minor fallacies and inaccuracies, is the fact that while the author does generally recognize class divisions and antagonisms as basic phenomena in the present-day South, he does not see, and indeed explicitly and repeatedly denies, that class divisions were underlying factors in the South's history from the earliest period. Thus the assertion that "social distinctions hardly existed prior to the invention of the cotton gin" would have made interesting reading for the insurrectionists in Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The politics of the nineteenth century also, of course, reflect conflicting class interests which were exemplified by attempts on the part of non-slaveholding groups—farmers, artisans, mechanics—to overthrow the Bourbons' grip upon the state apparatus. And while Mr. Cash insists there was a solidifying of all groups in the decade prior to and during the Civil War, the fact is that this period represents a high point in political turmoil

in the South, with new parties springing up and fundamental issues such as suffrage and the taxing policy being fought over as never before. Indeed, this internal threat is, in the reviewer's opinion, an important factor behind the slavocracy's gambling on a counter-revolutionary stroke following the election of 1860. Merely looking at the statistics of that election will show that solidity was anything but characteristic of the Southern political scene. Three major candidates appeared there—Bell, Douglas, and Breckenridge—and while the latter was the choice of the dominant slavocratic wing, the combined votes of the other two, in the South itself, notwithstanding a campaign of terror and a restricted suffrage, came to over 680,000, while Breckenridge polled but 570,000.

The conspiratorial nature of the secession movement is well known, and there are on record admissions by its leaders, such as Edmund Ruffin, which demonstrate that they were aware of the fact that their actions by no means conformed to the will of the majority of the white Southerners. During the war itself this class division was brought to a climax. A striking manifestation of this (one among several) is the fact that one out of every seven or eight Confederate soldiers deserted, taking his arms with him, and before the end of the struggle there existed an army of over 100,000 former soldiers of Secession carrying on an active and serious guerrilla

war against the slaveholders' government.

Reconstruction, instead of being treated as a "battle for democracy," is treated in rather typical orthodox Bourbon fashion, with the Negroes pictured as the tools of unscrupulous whites and "strutting about full of grotesque assertions, cheap whiskey, and lying dreams"—the latter including universal suffrage, an end to Jim Crowism and anti-Semitism, free education, a wider distribution of land, and other "grotesque" desires.

The Populist movement is handled more sympathetically, though here again the two characteristic errors appear: a minimization of the class character of the movement and a complete failure to consider the active role of the Negro in it, and the striking fact of active and widespread collaboration between whites and Negroes during the years of its existence.

With such failings as these (and space has permitted the merest sampling) it is obvious that Mr. Cash has fallen far short of producing "the basic picture of the South."

HERBERT APTHEKER.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

BOOK REVIEW

(By Louise Glass)

CRISIS IN CHINATOWN

By Nate R. White

(Christian Science Monitor Magazine, Feb. 1, 1941)

FEB 27 1941

"Even though they hold a master's degree or a doctor's degree from our best universities, they are not wanted. Even though they can wear a Phi Beta Kappa key with pride, there still is no place for them. Even though the nation is crying for skilled workers, even though the California aircraft industry has combed the San Francisco market for skilled and semi-skilled workers, university trained Chinese are passed by. Instead of applying their talents for which they have been trained, they are washing dishes, carrying trays, ironing shirts, cutting meat, drying fish, selling herbs. There are today 400 to 500 skilled and semi-skilled Chinese in California without jobs."

"The traditional story after a colorful university education for a Chinese boy or girl is back to Chinatown where you belong. They are not told that in so many blunt words but more politely, 'We will call you if something comes up,' or 'We will file your application.'"

Doesn't this look and sound familiar? Here is no proof that "any

old foreigner" can get on better in this country than a Negro can—a favorite complaint among Negroes.

The fact is: Negroes stand a better show than any other non-white race. Thousands of fair-minded white people remind each other that Negroes came to the United States against their own volition and for that reason they are entitled to some consideration. For obvious reasons they have no such attitude toward other dark races—not even towards the Indians.

So what? What good is it to us hearing about discrimination against other races? There is a funny little streak in human nature that makes any ordeal less painful if we are not going through it alone. Misery does love company. (L. G.).

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

New Book Answers

"Gone With The Wind"

MAR 6 1941
NEW YORK—Henretta Buckmaster's book, "Let My People Go: The Story of the Underground Railway and the Abolition Movement," (Harpers, \$3.50) is described by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an answer to "Gone With The Wind," and the crinoline falseness of "Santa Fe Trail" and "The Birth of a Nation."

"I beseech every person who has wallowed in the lush sentimentality of 'Gone With The Wind,' Mr. White said, "to read Miss Buckmaster's superb book. They will find in it none of the crinoline falseness of 'Santa Fe Trail' and the 'Birth of a Nation' and films of that sort which have done so much to pervert the facts. Instead, Miss Buckmaster has dug out the truth and present it in a fashion which makes as exciting reading as any book I have read in many a year."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ALABAMA'S TRAGIC DECADE. By John Witherspoon DuBose. Edited by James K. Greer. 8vo. Birmingham, Ala.: Webb Book Company, 1938. Second Avenue, North. \$3.50. MAR 2 1941
A study of the Reconstruction years, 1865-74.

8-1941

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

A COLORED WOMAN IN A WHITE WORLD

MARY CHURCH TERRELL

An Appreciation

By CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

There is one graduate of Oberlin that I may know better and admire more than most of her fellow alumni. Mary Church Terrell, class of 1884, by exceptional ability, has brought honor to her college, her sex, and her race. In 1898, thirty-eight years ago, she spoke upon the program of the Annual Convention of National American Woman Suffrage Association. It was a long and illustrious procession of men and women who marched through the years across that platform. Speakers were invited because their presence lent influence to our cause or because they could make a telling, convincing address. For the latter reason, Mrs. Terrell had been invited. She presented a pleasing appearance and possessed what the world calls a "platform presence." Add a musical, well modulated voice and any audience might have been prepared for an enjoyable half hour, but the convention was astounded by her logic and eloquence. Her address was pronounced the gem of the entire program. No one who heard her then ever forgot the occasion or failed to note her after career.

In 1904, she was invited at the request of the American auxiliary to speak at the great Congress of the International Council of Women held in Berlin. She spoke in German, French, and English (having studied in Europe for three years after taking her second degree at Oberlin). So thoroughly did she know these languages, that she was eloquent in all three. Again, she won the unanimous approbation of the convention and, in addition, became the favorite of the European press. I heard both of these remarkable speeches.

men at the same time. In Mrs. Terrell, New York Times
New York, N. Y.



MRS. TERRELL

As she appeared about 1929 when notified by her Alma Mater, Oberlin College, that she had been included in "The Book of Achievement" issued by the college, in honor of 100 famous alumnae and alumni.

less defender. Her race and her sex appreciate the value of her never pausing helpfulness to their respective evolution, so nobly inaugurated by Oberlin more than one hundred years ago. I hope the long line of distinguished Oberlin graduates are as proud of the contribution to human liberty made by their college and are as appreciative of the service of Mary Church Terrell to Oberlin's immortal causes as are many of us who have never stepped upon her campus.—From the Oberlin Alumni Magazine.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

SPECIAL LAUGHTER. By Howard Nutt. 12mo. Prairie City, Ill.: The Press of James A. Decker. SEP 29 1941
Poems, with an introduction by Richard Wright.

her race found a bold friend and a tireless. Meanwhile, she was continuously a popular lecturer in this country, speaking in all parts of the nation, at Chautauquas, Forums, and lecture courses. She addressed the students of most women's colleges and of many men's colleges. She spoke to all well known colleges and school for colored youth in the South. At the same time, she was a prolific writer as well, her articles having been published in many magazines and newspapers.

In 1894, woman suffragists of the District of Columbia, after six years of effort, succeeded in gaining consent to the appointment of two women to the Board of Education. Mrs. Terrell was one of the two first appointed, a position she held for eleven years, a longer period than any other member had enjoyed.

She helped to organize the National Association of Colored Women and was its first president for some time. She was also a charter member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Thus she lived an exceedingly busy life. For forty years or more, Mrs. Terrell expended her entire energies in serving good causes. Especially did she serve the welfare of her race and her sex. Both have profited much by her devoted and practical aid.

Oberlin was the first College in the modern world to open her doors to women. It was, however, clearly demonstrated that even Oberlin had not interpreted women's education very liberally since, for several years after the first graduation of women in 1841, the essays of women graduates on Commencement Day were read by a member of the Faculty instead of the student herself. Nevertheless, Oberlin did lead the way and women all the world around are grateful for her early courage.

Oberlin opened her doors to colored

'Sharecroppers All,' a Survey Of Southern Life, Off Press

ATLANTA, Ga. — "Sharecroppers All," a comprehensive study of economic and social conditions of the South, is recently off the press at Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina Press). The authors are well known sociologists, Arthur Raper and Ira De A. Reid.

Background of Authors

The former is research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and author of "The Tragedy of Lynching," "Preface to Peasantry," and "Race and Class Pressures." The latter has been a member of the faculty at Atlanta university since 1934. He is the author of "The Urban Negro Worker in the United States," "The Negro Immigrant," and "In a Minor Key." Both of the authors are southerners, and are keenly aware of conditions in this section of the country. Dr. Raper is particularly concerned with the rural phases of southern life, while Dr. Reid's concentration is in the urban areas.

Far Reaching System

According to the authors, the sharecropper system has reached far beyond the cotton plantation. In the introduction they include many non-farm workers in the term sharecropper "because most southern communities are essentially feudalistic." In their opinion the company store of the mill village is not unlike the commissary, and the factory supervisor not unlike the plantation overseer.

But even here they bring out that the parallel does not stop with the factory town or the South, for the significance is national — "for only a little less dependent and insecure than the landless farmers are chain-store clerks, salesmen, insurance agents, taxi drivers, and filling station operators. The reader is told if he would have the real meaning of the term sharecropper he should look to matters of low wages, insecurity, and lack of opportunity for self direction and responsible participation in community affairs.

Beyond its own particular difficulties, the authors bring out that the South, with the rest of the na-

tion, faces mounting debts and mergers, bigger and better machines, dwindling work opportunities, government subsidy and control, public relief, and increased taxes.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.
Book On Sharecroppers
Published in N.C.

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New York Age
New York, N. Y.

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Both of the authors are Southerners, and are keenly aware of conditions in this section of the country. Dr. Raper is particularly concerned with the rural phases of Southern life, while Dr. Reid's concentration is in the urban areas.

According to the authors, the sharecropper system has reached far beyond the cotton plantation. In the introduction they include many non-farm workers in the term sharecropper "because most Southern communities are essentially feudalistic". In their opinion the company store of the mill village is not unlike the commissary, and the factory supervisor not unlike the plantation overseer. But even here they bring out that the parallel does not stop with the factory town or the South, for the significance is national—"for only a little less dependent and, insecure than the South's landless farmers are chain-store clerks, salesmen, insurance agents, taxi drivers, and filling station operators". The reader is told if he would have the real meaning of the term sharecropper he should look to matters of low wages, insecurity, and lack of opportunity for self direction and responsible participation in community affairs.

Beyond its own particular difficulties, the authors bring out that

the South, with the rest of the nation, faces mounting debts and mergers, bigger and better machines, dwindling work opportunities, government subsidy and control, public relief, and increased taxes.
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DR. JOHNSON WRITES NEW RECORD OF BLACK BELT

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 6.—From the mouths of the victims of the economic, social, political, and racial restrictions of the South, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of the Department of Social Sciences, Fisk university, has compiled the harrowing record of material and moral starvation which he exposes in his "Growing Up in the Black Belt," published February 1.

The work was done under the auspices of the American Youth Commission, and is one of a series on Negro youth in various parts of the United States.

The prevalence of poverty was found to affect the race more than segregation laws. The barrier of prejudice is high but Negro youths return this with an equally violent hate for their white neighbors, living conditions, including recreation, housing and religion are all becoming increasingly poor. Only \$23 per year per person is spent on Negroes in the Old South while the nation's average is \$99.70.

Many Negroes and whites had never heard a radio and had had little contact with the outside world. The generous reproduction of interviews makes the work doubly interesting. In addition Dr. Johnson proves his arguments with tests and tabulations that cannot be found in any other publication.

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Big Demand For Urban League's Defense Booklet

NEW YORK—Because of the widespread demand for the booklet entitled "The Negro and National Defense," published by the National Urban League, a third printing of 5,000 copies has just been made necessary.

The booklet, which describes the efforts of all agencies engaged in the defense program and their possibilities in regard to the integration of Negro workers, has been widely used by schools, colleges, libraries, civic and fraternal organizations, and individuals. Thousands of copies have been distributed by Urban League branches in industrial centers all over the country, and many benefits have resulted from the appraisal of Negroes of their rights under the program.

The Urban League is planning to issue similar booklets of this nature within the next few months in connection with its Annual Vocational Opportunity Campaign, which will be held this year during the week of March 16-23.

Telegraph Macon, Georgia Garment Workers

SEVENTH AVENUE, by Dorothy Meyersburg. E. P. Dutton and Company, New York. 288 pp., \$2.50. JAN 26 1941

A small Georgia town as the setting for a transplanted New York dress factory, the University of Georgia, and Dr. McHatton of the university are mentioned in this book which is written to reveal some of the unjust practices and demands of organized labor as exemplified in the garment industry. The background of the story is Seventh Avenue, New York's great garment center with the changing capitol and labor situations, dealing with men and women in industry, delegates, bosses, spies, unions, strikes, pickets, etc.

The story so vehemently expressed as to smack of personal

experience gives an insight into some human problems involved in this great section of American industry. The Southern detail in the story, however, lacks integrity. For instance, Dorothy Meyersburg has her characters leave Washington, D. C., as the cherry trees in the basin are just coming into bud, and has them arrive in Georgia two days later to find the cotton white in the fields.

The author is a young New Yorker who has done some newspaper work and written articles for trade magazines. Had her workmanship and style measured up to her inspiration and knowledge of the subject she no doubt would have produced a sounder structure to house this exploitation of labor unions.

Though a hint of the plot is given on page 13 the reader's interest is cleverly sustained to the end. JAN 26 1941

—JOSEPHINE B. ABNEY Telegraph Macon, Georgia BLACK FIRE, by Covelle Newcomb. Illustrations by Avery Johnson. Longmans, Green and Company, New York. 275 pp. \$2.50. JAN 26 1941

Here is the dramatic story of that magnificent figure in history, Henri Christophe, from the day when as a young slave child he defiantly fought a cruel overseer for beating his mother until the time as King Henri I, he again defied his would-be destroyers by putting a golden bullet through his heart.

Henri knew personally of the cruelty of the whites, but it was not until he became a waiter at The Crown in Cape Haitien that he learned generally of the suffering of the blacks under white and mulatto rule. "Who will help my People?" became his anguished cry. JAN 26 1941

The kindly scholar, Toussaint L' Ouverture, and the cruel Dessalines were beginning to rouse the natives to rebellion, Henri joined them, and in time became a General. He made a little Paris out of the city he had once been a waiter in, but when the French proved treacherous, he did not hesitate to send his many years of work up in flames.

After years of war, Haiti became independent in 1804. Toussaint had been betrayed, Dessalines killed by his own men, and Henri the head of the government. As king, he was spurred on to furious energy by the realization that he had so much to do and so little time in which to accomplish it. He forced everyone to work and the island once more became prosperous. He built palaces for the prestige of his country, churches, schools, and the mighty fortress Bonnet-a-l'Eveque

against the return of the French. For the good of his country, he became a hated tyrant, unwise attempting too much in too small a time, but he was a great patriot and a majestic figure throughout his tumultuous life. Covelle Newcomb's half-fictional, half-authentic biography makes absorbing reading indeed.

—SUSAN BOONE

8-1941

Nation
New York, N. Y.

'Propagandist for Humanity'

CLARENCE DARROW FOR THE DEFENSE. By Irving Stone. Doubleday, Doran and Company. \$3.

IRVING STONE, who has a tendency to paint his characters in bright colors, has not spared the brushes in this life of Clarence Darrow, but he stays within bounds. Well documented, even brilliantly written, the book reads like an adventure story but has the impact of a forgotten indictment. Perhaps the eight-hour day, the right of workers to strike or unions to organize, the anti-evolution laws, and prohibition seem academic issues now, but under Stone's prodding they live again.

In writing this book Stone has weighted the scales skillfully. His emphasis is on Darrow the advocate of liberal causes rather than on Darrow the man. However, he includes enough factual and anecdotal material about Darrow's background, his personal and domestic life, to give the reader an understandable portrait, even though it is a little less critical than it might be.

Clarence Darrow was born in Kinsman, Ohio, in 1857. His father was a bookish furniture-maker much more interested in books than in furniture. He taught the young Clarence three things that influenced all his future actions—love of books and learning, an almost fanatical belief in tolerance, and sympathy for the under-dog.

When Darrow moved to Chicago in 1887 he was merely a country lawyer with a flair for debating. At that time the sound of four human necks being broken by the noose was still fresh in the ears of the people. It was the aftermath of the Haymarket riots. The spirit of revolt was smoldering. Darrow smelled the smoke and couldn't stay away from the fire. Henry George and his system, socialism, anarchism, free love, and other "isms" were attracting the attention of the intellectuals. It was an era of talk, and Darrow was the least silent. In fact, he spent more time lecturing and debating than he did in his law office, and his oratorical prowess brought him into contact with many of the leading personages of Chicago. One of them was John Peter Altgeld, who liked Darrow on sight and soon got him a job in the city law department, which eventually led to Darrow's appointment as general counsel for the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. For a few years he was content, and it seemed as if he might become a successful corporation lawyer, but Eugene Debs was arrested for leading the American Railway Union strike, and Darrow, then thirty-seven years old, gave up his lush job to defend Debs. It was his first cause célèbre.

In this trial Darrow originated a pattern of procedure that

was simplicity itself. Instead of defending the accused, he attacked the law itself, showing it to be archaic and unjust. Part of this plan was to put the plaintiff on trial and show that the real victim was the defendant, and as Stone points out in discussing the various important trials in Darrow's career, Darrow used this method or a variation of it in almost all his cases. The only time he came a cropper was in his defense of the McNamara brothers in the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times Building. Darrow was tired and sick at the time and wanted no part in the case, but Samuel Gompers prevailed upon him and Darrow reluctantly gave in, to discover a few months later that the McNamara brothers had been guilty of a series of terroristic acts. For the first time he was confronted with the problem of a defense in which he could not put his heart. He had the McNamara brothers plead guilty and earned the epithet "traitor" from organized labor. He himself was indicted and tried on a charge of jury-bribing because of his participation in the case, and although eventually acquitted, he left Los Angeles broken in health and reputation. He returned to Chicago and had to start all over, and it was some years before his natural ability overcame the stigma attached to his name. That was in 1911. He never tried another labor murder case.

By far the most interesting portions of the book are those dealing with the trials. Stone discusses in detail the cases of the Woodcutters' Union in Oshkosh, of John Mitchell and the United Mine Workers, of Big Bill Haywood and the Western Federation of Miners, of Loeb and Leopold; the Scopes trial at Dayton, Tennessee; the defense of Dr. Sweet, the Negro; and the Massey case in Hawaii. Stone has originated an effective method. He treats them as though he were the director of a play. He sets the scene, explains the story, introduces the characters, and criticizes the acting. Of course the leading man is always Darrow, and regardless of the script he never fails to give a great performance.

Although Darrow was a bohemian in his personal life, in his thinking he was always old-fashioned. He was the typical small-town agnostic, a benign philosophical anarchist of the same stripe as Thoreau. He hated violence and had a heart as large as his huge body. Someone called him "a propagandist for humanity." It is a fitting epitaph.

Nation
New York, N. Y.
North Carolina

TAR HEELS. By Jonathan Daniels. Dodd, Mead and Company. \$3.

BY INHERITANCE, and no doubt by choice, Jonathan Daniels gets around. Josephus Daniels, his father, had the sound idea that an editor's business was as much moving around among the people as it was writing for his newspaper. Jonathan Daniels began traveling with his father, and

he has always kept it up. Thus his biography of North Carolina, the second volume in the Sovereign States series, is concerned mainly with living people as he found them somewhere between tidewater and the mountains. Once North Carolinians regarded their state as "the valley of humiliation between two mountains of conceit"—referring naturally to the First Families of Virginia and the aristocrats of South Carolina. Infant Tar Heels, even Mr. Daniels himself, started life with what he describes as "a belligerent sense of inferiority." In the last twenty-five years or so, however, they have pretty well overcome any lingering inferiority complexes. Mr. Daniels makes the modest claim that North Carolina is now the most advanced Southern state. That claim may cause some of us Southerners from less enlightened areas to feel a twinge of jealousy, but we shall have to confess that it is not unsupported. North Carolina has not had a poll tax for twenty years. Lynchings have almost disappeared. Another point is more dubious. Mr. Daniels says the state has not in modern times had a very big demagogue, nor a powerful one. Senator Reynolds, Mr. Daniels writes, fits the pattern, but he is clown, not master. But there Reynolds sits, at the head of the Military Affairs Committee, a place where a fascist-minded demagogue, even a clownish lightweight, has no right to be.

In all justice, however, if we give North Carolina a demerit for Reynolds, then we shall have to put down several credit marks for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A generation ago it was probably no worse and certainly no better than half a dozen other universities in surrounding Southern states. Then President Frank Graham rescued it from the old false pride of the South and brought the university down to the Southern earth. This was not accomplished without a struggle. First the preachers were afraid the university would make atheists, and then the reactionaries were afraid it would make radicals. But the university has become the freest in the South. Jonathan Daniels writes, "Sometimes it seems like a miracle."

One miracle to a state is probably enough. Cigarettes make a lot of money for the Dukes, and have blessed the world with Duke University and Doris Duke Cromwell, but after the manufacturer and the landlord and the credit manager get their shares, very little is left for the farmer. Nevertheless, tobacco did bring a great deal of money into the state, and part of it went into roads and schools. Everybody seems pleased with the roads, but about the schools there is some doubt. So far as white teachers are concerned, the school system is no longer getting the best brains—they are going into other professions and business. On the other hand, the schools are getting the best Negro brains. But that only illustrates how tightly other fields are closed against the Negro, and brings up the question whether the Negro is advancing along a highway or is really creeping up a blind alley. That

question Mr. Daniels doesn't answer. He does note that in plumbing put in, but I decided to send my daughter to the North Carolina the Negroes seem more willing to make North Carolina College for Women instead." That seems sacrifices for education than do the whites. But at least some conclusive; can there be any further doubt that North Carolina is on the right track?

CHARLES CURTIS MUNZ

tion. This evidence comes from one of Mr. Daniels's kin, Cousin Melvin Daniels, who said, "I thought about having

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Wright's New Book Biased, Depressing

By BEATRICE M. MURPHY

TWELVE MILLION BLACK VOICES
by Richard Wright (New York. The
Viking Press, \$3.00. Photo-direction
by Edwin Rosskam)

In spite of the few words of encouragement at the end of the book, Richard Wright's new book is as depressing—and probably will be as controversial—as "Native Son."

The note struck throughout the book is one of a people oppressed, impoverished, suffering utter deprivation of mind and body, and hopelessly fighting against odds too great for them.

But let's look at the book closely—for its text is so important and so influencing that it must be examined closely.

Treats Only of Masses

Mr. Wright tells us in the very first words of his introduction that the text "while purporting to render a broad picture of the processes of Negro life in the United States intentionally does not include in its considerations those areas of Negro life which comprise the so-called 'talented tenth.'"

The growing and influential colored middle-class professional and business men of the North are also not considered because the text assumes that those few colored people who have lifted themselves through personal strength, talent, or luck, above the lives of their fellow-blacks "are but fleeting exceptions."

These groups are omitted, says Mr. Wright, "in an effort to simplify a depiction of a complete movement of a debased, feudal folk toward a twentieth-century urbanization."

I admit that this simplifies the author's task greatly; but does that simplify the picture any? Cut off part of any circle and of course it cannot be complete.

Picture Distorted

Eliminating in a sentence or two all of the colored people in the United States who are not "tillers of the soil," or "domestics and laborers" leaves a big gap in the circle; and every such gap

takes away from the authenticity of the picture as a whole.

Mr. Wright says that "more than one half of the colored people in the South are tillers of the soil." He devotes one half of his book to giving us a strikingly accurate picture of this group of tillers. But he fails to give as striking a picture of the rest of the Southern colored people. The same is true of the group who are not Northern "domestics or laborers."

His figures appear to be accurate; it is evident that a great deal of time and care has been spent on gathering and sifting data; but the intentional suppression of parts of the picture are most unfortunate, to say the least.

Book Well Written

Mr. Wright says of the slaves coming over on ships: "We gazed impassively upon the lecherous less helpless the picture becomes when one thinks of the courage which has impelled a few of our is our Chateau-Thierry" find an echoing "yes" in my heart.

But the colored writer has an obligation which he cannot overlook, and we colored Americans have a debt to pay.

Looking at the picture from one angle, the great majority of depressed, hopeless sharecroppers, laborers and domestics loom so large on the horizon that it is hard to see anything else.

However, were it not for this very fact our comparatively smaller group of the "talented tenths," "mulatto leadership," "growing and influential colored middle-class" would not stand out so strikingly.

Has Author Duty to Race?

Think how much brighter and group during these three hundred years to pull themselves up! What a few can do, so can others.

Isn't it the duty of a colored author to point out this courage, this strength, this determination and talent? We do not want the facts suppressed; we only ask that the WHOLE truth be told.

In case any one has the idea



Sharecropper's Child

by this time that I do not like the book, or that I have changed my crew members as they vented the pent-up bestiality of their starved sex lives upon our sisters and wives." Impassively! The slaves took it, certainly; they had to. But no one can say they liked it or were indifferent to it!

As usual, what Mr. Wright has written is well written.

His words, "Our black boys did not die for liberty in Flanders. They die in Texas and Georgia. Atlanta is our Marne; Brownsville, Texas,

opinion of Wright as one of the greatest writers of our race, let me dispel those impressions. Both are wrong.

Mr. Wright's book is highly significant and interesting. I have no quarrel with its facts of either picture or text. It is because of its significance that I raise the above question.

Wright has a large white following to which this one-sided picture will be damaging, and a large colored following that will be hopelessly discouraged by it.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

"Mr. George's Joint"

DEC 6 1941

THE above caption is the title of a novel by Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Wheaton, of Texas. The book is the history of a very tough rendezvous for beer drinkers, gamblers and harlots, owned and operated by a very tough colored man in a small Texas town, and it purports to tell a true story of Negro life in America. Indeed, the story as dramatized by Mrs. Wheaton, made such an impression upon the publishers E. P. Dutton and Company, and The Virginia Quarterly Review, that the two acting jointly, awarded Mrs. Wheaton the Thomas Jefferson Southern Award—\$2,500 and a gold medal—for having produced the "best manuscript by a Southern author during 1941." After reading the book it is our humble opinion that the award is a terrible slam on Southern writers.

Last August, when the book first made the review columns, the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch expressed doubt that the author, who occupies a high position socially and intellectually, could have managed to obtain such "extraordinary insight" into the life and doings of a colored beer joint." The Ledger-Dispatch had not then read the book, but has since done so, and is still skeptical as to "the true-life portrayal" which earned the accolade for Mrs. Wheaton. When the Editor-in-Chief of the Ledger-Dispatch, whom the Journal and Guide rates number one as a critic of music or literature, on, of or by Negroes, says he is in doubt, then there is something wrong with the music or literature in question.

WHETHER Mrs. Wheaton intended her novel to be a true characterization of Negro life on the median plane we do not know. We should not like to impute such a thing to her, although she probably misled her Virginia and New York sponsors by making church members, choir singers and even church deacons of her characters, all of whom reeked in filth and obscenity from beginning to end. Because she conveyed the impression, no doubt that she was not portraying the lives of a certain type of degenerate Negroes, but of Negroes as they are as a whole, her publishers christened it with this bit of sophistry:

"Many novelists have dealt with the Negro and his place in American life—some have presented the colored man as a quaint survival from Southern life before the war between the states; others have falsified for the purposes of social reform; a few have written of the Negro as he really is, but none with more sympathy and knowledge than Mrs. Wheaton has done in this unusual book." That subtle statement does great violence to Mrs. Julia Peterkin and Dr. Arthur Rutledge; and Roark Bradford and Octavious Roy Cohen, the latter an obvious literary clown, should demand an apology.

DEC 6 1941

SYMPATHY and knowledge! The book is a collection of episodes that cannot be reconciled with either. Her principal character had the advantage of two years in high school, "in the fine schools we have in Texas", and she gets him employed as a shipping clerk at \$22.50 a week by a white concern; still he uttered with an abandon that would have made the most illiterate person in Texas look bad. He and his wife had two children, whom they abandoned, in their prosperity, to the care and raising of a syphilitic embecile whom they habitually cheated out of her wages. Most of what Mrs. Wheaton set forth as true characterization is improbable.

"Mr. George's Joint" is good propaganda for the South. We suspect it was written with that purpose in view, and we think that is what The Virginia Quarterly Review had in mind when its editors put their stamp of approval upon it.

8-1941

The First Reader

By HARRY HANSEN

Jefferson Southern Award Goes to Dialectic Novel of Hard-Boiled Negroes and Their Beer Joint

OCT 27 1941

You have to have an eye for misspelling and an ear for phonetics to get all the fun out of Elizabeth Lee Wheaton's prize-winning story, *Mr. George's Joint*. For this is a return to dialect, the talk of Southern colored people in a Texas town, a traditional device for amusing white folks. We tune in on Obelia, Katie, May Lou, Magnolia and Old Man Hall discussing the business of serving customers in Mr. George's place. Just for a sample:

"How you lak hostessin', O. B.?"

"Hit O.K."

"She ain't took so good wid de mins, ah heah Annie say." Old Man Hall commented shrilly.

"How much you take in?" May Lou asked.

"A dollah an' fifteen cints an' tin-twelve bottle uh beer an' pop."

"That ole beer drinkin' ain't nothin'," Magnolia sniffed. "Some mens would jes as soon as to have a pig sippin' beer with 'em, efn jes ack lak company. You too silly!"

"How you means?"

"You gotta ack diffunt fum what you does. You trails 'roun' be-hime 'em jes lak a lil pitiful dawg, an' they gonne treat you lak one. You gotta be switchy an' igno'e 'em an' then they'll follah you roun' an' treat you nice an' offah you change and stuff."

"You bettah listen to Miss Mack-nolia," Old Man Hall chortled. "She tellin' you right. She git mo' fum de mins dan all de res."

"Well, ah'll rightly try to mock huh," Obelia sighed, "'cause ah'd sho lak to git me a lot uh chang'."

"New York World Telegram"
Through Eyes of Possessive Women.

If you have survived thus far and are a candidate for more, you may be told that Mr. George's Joint deals with the tribulations of a half-literate colored man who hasn't any money and thinks running a beer and pop joint in a little Texas town is the life. George Hall inevitably gets into trouble with his wife, Annie, and gets run out of town for beating her, but while his graft lasts, his life is comparatively simple, and while other customers get drunk and meet with punishment from their women George keeps a roving eye out for the gals and gets by.

His matrimonial tiffs are many, and when George—called Jawge—permits gambling and suffers raids from the police his profits go out of the window. The customers are moochers who don't pay and sailors who peel bills off a roll of ones with nonchalance, and the manners are rough and the talk frank and undecorated. But the events are seen largely through the eyes of the possessive women, and that they do most of the talking may be because Mrs. Wheaton listened avidly to her maid, who used to regale her with reports of what went on in "Mr. Jawge's Jint" in "Texas City."

But now comes the joker—this report on half-literate, tough, beer-guzzling characters is bedecked with a medal and a streamer that declares it to be the first winner of the Thomas Jefferson Southern Award. Poor Thomas Jefferson—who is the symbol of a more sympathetic understanding of the lowly. If this had been the

Amos and Andy award I would have thought it appropriate.

Different Attitudes in Writing.

In recent years writers have not been using the vernacular of the poor Negro as entertainment but as social document, just as they have been setting down the vernacular of the whites. They have also portrayed the common humanity of the Negro and the white, and it is safe to say that *The Green Pastures* was a milestone in combining quaint traits with the essential goodness underneath. Mrs. Wheaton's characters are hard-boiled and often vulgar and one misses this underlying feeling of pity and understanding. They are portrayed for our amusement and although there are many incidents that bring laughs, the story uses much repetition. (E. P. Dutton & Co., \$2.50.)

The Story of a Suburb.

Caleb Bruce, 28-year-old author, has attempted to portray in a novel, *Knickerbocker Gardens*, that difficult period between 1927 and 1937, when the older generation found the ground cracking under it and the younger people for the first time were asking questions about the economic structure of the society in which they had grown up. His method is to trace the home life and everyday activities of a group of people in Suburbia, following lives that interlock and run parallel, and suggesting by his technique that society is made up of numerous particles and not dominated by a few individuals.

There are two sides to the suburb—the Restricted Area, where the better homes are located, and Swamptown, inhabited chiefly by foreign born and the subject, on occasion, of social investigation by the upper set. But money and contentment are relative terms and the year 1929 drives this home; the stockbroker, Ed Larsen, who can't make a go of it after that period, takes himself off the earth; women make the readjustments they must. The core of the book is in the unfolding of the younger people, who are searching for a foothold, and whose confidence in capitalism gets a shock. The snobbish element is present, too, and young Bobby Aarons, affronted and uncertain, changes his name to Allan; Julia Vardon tires of her father's ministerial home and leaves and others make similar decisions.

The author's method is to portray change by describing incidents, sometimes trivial, in detail, letting each contribute to the whole picture, and is the opposite of the dramatic. In this he shows unusual facility; the writing is even, the mood is sustained; there is reality in the dialogue. But the effect of the whole is monotonous; one clutches at straws to get the direction of the change and finds them frail; the book is overwritten. A long and detailed novel, it gives one respect for the ability of the novelist, who writes like an undramatic Sinclair Lewis, but it also reminds us that when a novel becomes too much like the routine of existence the author has mistaken the reason for writing it. (Scribner's, \$2.75.)

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

'Blood on the Forge' Is Story of Negro Brothers

BLOOD ON THE FORGE, a novel by William Attaway. Doubleday, Doran, New York.

By Ralph Warner

When the Ford workers went on strike last winter, the company used Negroes as strikebreakers. One of the great triumphs of the Ford local of the UAW-CIO was the manner in which it not only averted an outbreak of race rioting, but actually won over many of the Negroes, who had been used by the Ford service department as shock troops in vicious attacks upon the strikers.

strikebreaker, Big Mat, once a land-slave in Kentucky, who becomes a deputy in the midst of a steel strike in the Monongahela Valley of West Virginia. The saga of Big Mat and his two brothers, Chinatown and Melody, carries the reader from the tenant farms of the South into the great mills where men are broken, burned and immolated on the shrine of steel.

It is a tale told frequently with great beauty. And also with broad strokes of crude colors. The stark oppression of the South is revealed in almost poetic passages of great power. The thrashing of the riding boss by Big Mat and the subsequent journey in a box car—Negroes imported to the steel town to undersell and undercut restless white labor—is an epic. The steel town itself is painted in all its sordidness; and the mill rises on these pages like a vivid lithograph drawn by an inspired, let us say, Hugo Gellert.

There is a love story, the conjunction of Big Mat with Anna, the Mexican girl. And then the slow disintegration of Big Mat in the hands of the woman, until at last he loses his simple pastoral ideas. Side by side with this portrayal are the firmly etched characters of Melody, and of Chinatown, the slant-eyed simple brother who loses his sight in a horrifying explosion in the mill.

The story rises toward its climax as the white workers begin to organize against the inhuman exploitation they suffer. Here the bitter hatred Big Mat feels for the whites drives him away from the union. The key to the final development of Big Mat is supplied by this passage from the book:

"Big Mat and Melody were vastly different men. But both of them approached the world alike. Ideas of union and non-union could only confuse them until that time when their own personal experience would give them the feeling necessary for understanding."

This is a hopeful statement, but it is belied by the pogress of Big Mat toward his tragic death. For he turns against the union, finding that joy of power for which he had been seeking, by smashing white workers' heads, wrecking the union headquarters, and finally going berserk in a melee in which he

loses his life. Unquestionably the motive for this tragedy is fully supplied by Mr. Attaway. It is the same motive which affects Bigger Thomas in "Native Son." But there is no Mr. Max to evaluate the social significance of Big Mat's plight. What final chapter, in which a blind war with a mastery of phrase and ideas, is more, no Negro in the book feels veteran is compared to Chinatown. It will not contribute however to-

New Masses New York, N. Y. American Revolutionist

ANTHONY WAYNE, by Harry E. Wildes. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.75.

NOV 1 1941

ANTHONY WAYNE was born for battle. In domestic, business, and political life he cut a sorry figure, being guilty of disloyalty, ingratitude, and moral behavior which may kindly be described as lax. Even here, however, he was never vicious as were men like the second officer of the Revolution, Charles Lee, or Benedict Arnold, or the president of the state of Pennsylvania, Joseph Reed, or Brig.-Gen. James Wilkinson.

Wayne, a sometimes misguided man, was always a magnificent warrior. And since in the latter capacity he served the United States from 1776 until his death twenty years later, his contributions were great and our debt to his memory is heavy. Mr. Wildes' excellent study does much to make that memory green once more, and to revivify the agonies of this nation's birth.

Treason, incompetence, and stupidity were everywhere. Division, jealousy, profiteering were prevalent. Superbly trained, perfectly provisioned veterans faced hastily gathered, ill-armed tyros; the sea was England's; New York, Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah were lost. The camps of the Revolutionary armies were veritable Golgothas, with epidemics chronic, doctors few, medicines nonexistent. And for six long years it was defeat—retreat—defeat—retreat. But the war went on, and the war was won.

It was won because things happened that were in no manual of military tactics. It was won because when an undermanned fort was subjected to a surprise attack, a hundred wounded men poured out of the hospital to take their battle positions. And when someone asked if more were on their way, the reply came, "Yes, blast your eyes! Every sick man who can stand!" It was won because when Wayne found himself ambushed, surrounded, and outnumbered ten to one at Green Springs, Va., in 1781, and Cornwallis felt certain he would do the traditional thing—surrender—Wayne and his men charged, bayonets flashing. The British were stunned, Wayne escaped, the army's ammunition wagons were saved, and soon Cornwallis himself was trapped—and he surrendered.

It was won because the people were fighting, the people whose wellsprings of strength and resourcefulness defy measurement.

Mr. Wildes' book tells this story—from the

vantage point of one man's career—and tells it well. There are occasional lapses, notably the failure to mention the part played by a Negro, Pompey, in the capturing of Stony Point. But this book, which is based upon a tremendous mass of hitherto unmined manuscript material, is by far the best yet done on the subject, and definitely supersedes the works of Thomas Boyd and J. R. Spears. It is about as near to definitive as the biography of a human being can be.

HERBERT APTHEKER.
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

NATIVE AFRICAN MEDICINE, by George Way Harley, M.D., Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. \$3.50.

AFRICAN medicine based on fetish beliefs, that diseases are caused by evil spirit and the efficacy of drugs depends on the benevolent spirits which being put into the body, drive away the malevolent disease-causing spirits. All African medical men are not witch doctors. The village apothecary is a sort of country doctor who is learned in the properties of herbs.

Some go in for a bit of surgery. Certain African methods of dealing with disease are very effective. People in Liberia are frequently troubled with rheumatism and dropsy. For these diseases, no medicines have been found equal to those of the native doctor.

Dr. Harley, a medical missionary in Liberia with many years of service at the Ganta Dispensary on the upper St. John river near the border of Guinea gives the story of "Native African Medicine" with special reference to its practice in the Momo Tribe of Liberia.

The curative practices and certain family remedies and secrets are taught under oath of secrecy in the Fofa Bush, a secret society. This practice of medicine is divided between the purely magical art and the practical art which has as its chief claim the use of drugs, some surgery and good bone-setting.

Among the Manos, the most highly-prized medicines are passed down from family to family, father to son, as family secrets or from the midwife to the daughter of the tribe. African doctors (called zo) give the woman a worthy place in medicine. "A woman zo is the mid-wife, the gynecologist, the pediatrician, the general practitioner, and

the one who acts as surgeon when the girls are "circumcized." She is also skilled in the use of poisons and is most likely to be called upon to fix poison for anyone who has committed an unforgivable sin." The man zo may not attend a woman in childbirth, but stays outside in front of the house and tells them what to do.

With leaves, barks, animals, and insects the African doctor treats everything from a headache to a poisonous snake-bite. Rare as it may seem a few methods of preventive medicine are known and used, and the Manos are extremely conservative when it comes to surgery. There are a few medicines which will do some good for any kind of snake-bite, and several remedies are known for the more dangerous snakes. One secret society exists primarily for the treatment of snakebites and represents also something of a social institution where the members gather for gossip and professional confabs. The African medical practitioner not only cures snakebite, but can establish immunity against its deadly effect. He can also increase female milk-flow and thereby prolong the usefulness of virgins as wet nurses and for the older women long after menopause. Birth-control and contraception are well-known arts.

The African medicine man is by far the most prominent figure. The author concludes that "even if the African medicine man believes that the power of his remedies is magical, that belief does not preclude them having therapeutic value." The woman's place in treating children's diseases and as a midwife is worthy of emphasis scarcely matched by the professional medicine man.

These African doctors know something of, and practice immunization and epidemic control, bone-setting, blood-letting and cupping and some psychotherapy. "Within limitations,

the native African doctor knows many valuable remedies and drugs growing in his own forests and discovered by his ancestors to be effective in curing his own diseases."

Dr. Harley gives detailed description to the drugs used, and to the preparation and administration of medicines. Many are guarded so secretly that he was unable to discover them. The book sports an appendix, an index, and a botanical list. It provides easy reading for the layman and certainly should find its place on the shelves of the professional medical men.

- THOMAS A. WEBSTER.
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.
'Uncle Tom's Cabin'
Rivalled by Negro
Classic Reprint
NOV 16 1941

Kate E. R. Pickard's story of the kidnapping and enslavement for forty years of Peter Still and his family is being reprinted by the Negro Publication Society of America under its original title, "The Kidnapped and Ransomed," as the first work in a series devoted to Negro life, past and present. The publication date is November 28, 1941.

The Pickard book is being rescued from undeserved obscurity. At the time of its original appearance 1856, it was regarded as a stirring narrative comparable in effect to "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The Negro Publication Society of America, Inc., is a membership non-profit making educational organization, devoted to the publishing of a Quarterly Review and books of a literary, scientific, educational and popular nature dealing with the life and history of the Negro in America and elsewhere. Books by other publishers will also be distributed. NOV 16 1941

The Society was formed and is directed by many noted Negro and white scholars, authors, and specialists in Negro affairs, among them being: Alain Locke, literary critic, author, and professor at Howard University; Henrietta Buckmaster, author of "Let My People Go"; L. D. Reddick, Negro writer and Curator of the Schomburg Collection of Literature, New York Public Library; Herbert Aptheker, teacher, historian, author of recent pamphlets on Negro slave revolts; Arthur Huff Fauset, principal of Frederick Douglass High School, Philadelphia; Angelo Herndon, author of "Let Me Live" and secretary of the NAACP; Dorothy

Brewster, literary critic, instructor at Columbia University; Jean Muir, actress; and Dashiell Hammett, Bernhard J. Stern, Theodore Dreiser, Margaret Osborn, Rockwell Kent and others.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
November 17, 1941

A Monument to the WPA

WITH the completion of the series of 48 WPA State guides, those who scoffed at the Federal Government's expenditure of funds to pay for white-collar projects of this character, particularly projects for writers, actors and musicians, will have to admit that it was money well spent, at least in so far as the guides are concerned. Some of the other WPA activities in literary and artistic spheres were good, and others were mediocre or used for Communist propaganda, but no informed person can say that the WPA guides to the States are anything but first-class jobs, jobs which could hardly have been improved upon if the leading publishers of the United States had sought the country's best talent to do the research and the writing.

The explanation, no doubt, lies in the fact that men and women of proved literary ability were put in charge of these projects. MRS. EUDORA RAMSAY RICHARDSON was State supervisor for the excellent Virginia volume, BRUCE CRAWFORD, the former editor and publisher of *Crawford's Weekly* in Wise County, Va., occupied the same position with respect to the West Virginia Guide, and so on. In other words, the books were under first-class editorial supervision, and at the same time afforded employment to capable researchers and writers who were in need of financial assistance.

The State guides are remarkable not only for the wealth of factual data they contain, but also for their stylistic excellence and their well-chosen illustrations. They are eminently readable, as well as highly informative. These 48 volumes are a genuinely important contribution to our knowledge of American

life. Moreover, the Writers' Program of the WPA has produced numerous other titles of good quality, in addition to the guides. *The Negro in Virginia* is, for example, a thorough and scholarly volume, containing much important information on a subject about which more should be known. All in all, the WPA Writers' Project has developed in a manner to confound its critics. What is the basis for the notion, anyway, that whereas manual laborers are entitled to Government work, when they are in need, white-collar workers are not?

If Beale Street Could Talk

Father of the Blues, by W. C. Handy. New York: The Macmillan Company. 331 pages. \$3.

THIS is the autobiography of one of our first folk-music composers, edited for publication but apparently written by Handy himself. As is nearly always true of non-professional writing, the book is not vivid, it is not eloquent about that which we would wish to know; it is honest but it is rambling and dull. Very few can learn the full discipline of more than one art in a short time. And so we continue to have humdrum, disorganized books out of exciting and even significant lives, all the worse when we know that the man isn't talking very well but he sure could whistle it.

Handy's father, an Alabama parson, wouldn't allow any unchristian fooling around with a hellbox of a guitar even after the kid had hustled to get one as the shining prize of his life. But it was from his father he learned the beautiful phrase about it ain't *getting* religion that counts, sonny, it's *doing* religion, and it was from his father he got the elements of the true dignity and sorrow of his race (his father and mother both traced kinfolks back to noble colored people of the slave days). He learned naturally about every plant and animal that grew around their dirt-floor cabin, most important the music of all the birds. Music was the thing that stirred him, and it may seem only like a quaint anecdote that when he first became aware of the cornet, he went home and hollowed himself out a cow's horn and fitted a mouthpiece to it. Read sociologically, I believe this says a wide thing about the natural music of this country everywhere, which is that music comes somehow when it is badly enough wanted, but otherwise does not come truly. He sang like mad whenever he got the chance; he got an old three-dollar rotary-valve cornet finally, and he had found the door to the world.

Handy was born in 1873: he came before the rise of jazz, lived and worked through it without apparently understanding it; but he came from where it came from, and in a way he represented it. Actually he got his start in minstrel shows, when minstrels were riding high; and his early adventures of traveling with shows the length and breadth of the country, together with details of how the shows were put together and how they worked—sketchy as it is, this is material that you can't get much of anywhere in this later forgetting day. They traveled handsome and by Pullman, but they had to have a car with a concealed "bear-wallow," where the company kept its very real and necessary arsenal, extra supplies of food, and the chance for hiding a trouser when the white hoodlums came swarming as they were sure to come sooner or later. For the col-

ored people, it was like traveling for the delight of the country in some dangerous empire of cannibals, and he reports that the town of Orange, Texas, would stay up all night when their train was routed through there, to shoot up the car as it passed. If God wants to bless America, he might clean it up first, and that would not have to be so retroactive either.

JUL 14 1941

The W. C. Handy we know is the man who learned, almost in spite of himself, that what folks back home were making, with their mouths and improvised instruments, was a kind of music that could be written, and was new and fine. He worked up the Memphis Blues, out of himself and out of what he knew from listening all the time. Then one night he made himself a blues with a three-strand splice, and it is the blues which will be forgotten last of all of them, I guess, and starts, "I hate to see that evenin sun go down." He was a successful band leader, band manager and composer; but usually broke. He went to New York to become a music publisher and for a while was broker. Then he began to get into banquets and meet names and be told interesting stories about people who had become interesting for that, and the book wears off into the usual amateur's jumble of honors, occasions and times of day.

We do not wish to think of him as the father of the blues, which are never old and always in the air. There is a life there to be written, of Aunt Hagar's Children, by one of them. It obviously can't be written in a book: no book—outside of facts and dates, it has already been written in its best way and is already there if you would draw up a chair and listen, and it should always be called something like "I woke up this morning. . . ."

OTIS FERGUSON

Afro-american Baltimore, Maryland

The question of adaption of illustrative material to word content arises also in the publication of another new book this week titled "Word Pictures of the Great."

It is written by three Washington school teachers and designed for elementary school pupils.

Printed by the Associated Publishers, it deals with biographies of twenty-seven Americans, including Marian Anderson, Frederick Douglass, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Phyllis Wheatley, Henry O. Tanner, and Charlotte Hawkins Brown.

The illustrations include some thirty black and white drawings which are an improvement on some we have seen, but do not measure up to the well-planned scholarly book itself.

It is clear from this volume that the making of books has proceeded more rapidly than has the development of illustrators.

The early Dunbar and Douglass books suffered lamentably from lack of adequate drawings. Today's books show improvement, but not nearly so much as the times have a right to expect.

Globe and Independent Nashville, Tenn.

A VALUABLE HISTORY

Elsewhere in this issue of the Globe we are publishing a book review of "The Economic History of Liberia" by the noted historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. We are in the midst of an interesting and profitable perusal of this book at present, and can state that all persons wishing to be well informed on Liberia, past and present, and also learn some of American history, and available to those who have been "educated" from ordinary school and college textbooks, should read this brilliant book by a noted scholar of the Negro race. It is true as Dr. Woodson, the reviewer says, "Dr. George W. Brown (the author) has rendered the public a distinct service in producing The Economic History of Liberia."

The Browsing Reader

A New Voice For Africa

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY
OF LIBERIA, by Dr. George
W. Brown, Associated Publish-
ers Inc., Washington, D. C.

Dr. George W. Brown has rendered the public a distinct service in producing "The Economic History of Liberia." From the many productions on Liberia, one can select only a few which may be classified as scientific. During the first years of the experiment of the American Colonization Society in establishment of this republic on the west coast of Africa, persons, writing on both sides of the question, produced numerous articles and a few volumes which were mainly sentimental.

In the midst of the slavery controversy in the United States, Americans hardly expressed themselves clearly on this topic; and Europeans, although more open-minded, tended to ignore Liberia or to think of it as an impossibility. Even today the economic imperialists now exploiting all of Africa except Liberia, refer to that country as a joke.

For this attitude various reasons may be given. Liberia never had much of a chance. From the very beginning it was a dumping ground for captured Africans and a point to which were to be deported emancipated Negroes who had neither the experience nor the capital necessary for state-building. The European exploiters, moreover, instead of offering the republic encouragement, availed themselves of every opportunity to deprive Liberia of its territory and profit by its disadvantages with respect to trade. Little has been done, therefore, to lay the foundation for a real state in Liberia; and its problems, both economic and political, are not at an end.

STUDIES PROBLEMS

Dr. Brown in this timely volume has undertaken to study these problems from

various points of view and to give the public an insight into the government as determined by the social and economic system—a thing which other authors, devoted to sentiment, derision, and misrepresentation, have failed to do. Dr. Brown, however, frankly exposes the mistakes of the Liberians themselves. When they first settled in the country they undertook to live by charity from America just as such unprepared persons would most naturally do.

The next error was in the policy of hovering too close to the coast and restricting their efforts to trade with the natives rather than develop the interior in order to have that economic foundation which the development of this hinterland offered. The Liberians were misled by their first success at trade which rapidly came to an end after the European nations in the late eighties and early nineties began to grab the lands of Africa and establish their own trading posts along the coast. Without adequate agriculture to fall back upon, the country all but starved, and had to enter upon the disastrous policy of securing foreign loans which meant intervention.

TREATS HISTORY ECONOMICALLY

Into all of these matters the author freely goes and does not try to shield the inefficient Liberian administration and the American and European interlopers who have endeavored to profit by the weakness of the republic. In fact, the author adheres throughout this treatment to his plan to treat the history of Liberia economically.

The political developments and the present situation are not ignored, but instead of giving details as to what has happened in Liberia, the author presents the data which account for what did happen and what could not have happened under the circumstances. He emphasizes rather the geographic conditions, the plant life, the animals, the fisheries, the minerals, the soil, and the forest, thus giving a real picture of what Liberia is in order to understand what its past might have been, or what it may still become.

Dr. Brown is inclined to

think that Liberians have made the mistake of trying to superimpose American and European culture upon unwilling natives. He leaves the impression that the natives should be left to live their own lives and, if modernized, should be gradually introduced to modern methods as they may be voluntarily moved.

The Liberians in trying to Christianize the natives have done little more than to handicap them with inconveniences and difficulties which such change brings. The Liberians have not among them a laboring force sufficiently numerous to develop the country agriculturally themselves, and they have alienated the natives who might have carried out this much desired purpose.

The author pays high tribute to President Barclay, the present head of the Liberian Republic, for the reason that his policy seems to be to build a new system with the natives as the basic factor. The author regrets the lease granted Firestone for exploiting the rubber of the country. The natives were thereby deprived of important lands necessary for their development.

President Barclay's policy of working for and with the natives, however, has in it merits which the author believes will bring Liberia out of its difficulties if no further blunders are made in the future. The present native policy, as the author points out, has already shown how the prosperity of the natives will afford taxes necessary to support the republic which heretofore had to depend upon foreign loans. What he has to say on these matters, moreover, is well documented with references to the best books on the country, letters, diaries, and state papers which include the important agreements entered into by the republic.

—C. G. Woodson

Edgerton...

PILLARS OF GOLD. By Lucile Selkirk Edgerton. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1941. 403 pp. \$2.50.

Reviewed by RICHARD A. CORDELL

THE author of this colorful historical novel properly shares credit with her husband, who gathered voluminous notes for a history of the Arizona gold rush and of the role of the two-thousand-mile long Colorado River in the development of a rich territory. The Edgertons discovered an exciting story in the material, and "Pillars of Gold" is the result.

The main interest of their book lies in its historical background, in the epic of transportation development in a vast and hostile area of deserts, mountains, reptiles tormenting insects, and hurricanes. Mrs. Edgerton knew that American genius and inventiveness have always flourished best when applied to knotty problems of transportation.

For all its tortuous intrigue and melodrama the narrative itself is incidental. The characters are almost the conventional types of the tawdrier Western fiction—intrepid hero, villainous capitalist, lovely Dresden-China heroine, Mexican spitfire with rose in hair and dagger in garter, etc. But the grueling experiences of the miners, soldiers, and steamboatmen have an epic significance. Henry Miller has asserted that America begins at the Mississippi River, and here are the men who made the America; at least here is the story of the West—melodramatic and primitive, more often darkened by hunger, thirst, disappointment, and unspeakable discomfort than drenched in color and romance. The search for gold was probably the root of much evil; it was also the root of indescribable suffering. One feels that one has supped full on horrors when one has agonized with the hero across the blistering desert—Childe Roland's sinister landscapes seem a city park alongside Mrs. Edgerton's blasted areas. Then begin famine, Stuka mosquitoes, hostile Indians, Southern raiders and maulers, almost insuperable obstacles of transportation, etc.

The novel brings out many unfamiliar aspects of the Civil War, the backwash of which swept less lightly over the Southwest than many of us

realize. Some of the incidents taken directly from the historical records have the curious irrelevancy which fact superimposed on fiction sometimes possesses. "Pillars of Gold" sets a good example for all historical novels: there is an excellent map.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Instructor

Co-authors

College Text

RICHMOND—Professor Arthur P. Davis, director of the department of Languages, of Virginia Union University, is co-editor of a new college text in Negro literature entitled "The Negro Caravan" (Dryden Press).

"The Negro Caravan" is a comprehensive anthology of American Negro writings from the first writings of Phillis Wheatley to the current works of Richard Wright. It is divided into sections treating:

novel, poetry, folk literature, drama, essay, biography, speeches, pamphlets, letters.

This book is a "milestone" in the progress of Negro writers. White writers have long attempted to interpret the writings of Negroes but this book is edited by men who are "on the inside" and can speak from experience rather than "hear say."

Professor Davis was for two years columnist for the Journal and Guide. He has written articles and book reviews for such magazines as "Crisis," "Opportunity," "The Journal of Negro Education."

Professor Davis and his co-workers, Professors Sterling A. Brown and Ulysses Lee expect their work to be on the market within the next five weeks.



DAVIS

8-1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

A Best Seller—We Hope

Henrietta Buckmaster's new book, "Let My People Go," is another reason why fiction is losing its hold on today's readers.

This story of the underground railroad and the growth of the abolition movement at the middle of the past century is as dramatic and exciting as it is imaginative.

There are in this book of nearly 400 pages some thirty-eight references to Frederick Douglass. The great abolitionist is not cast in any new roles unknown to Douglass admirers, but these old oft-told incidents are set ablaze in brilliant miniatures.

There is, for example, a picture of Douglass making his first speech in Boston and it is set off by Garrison's classic utterance, "Is this a man or a thing?"

In Faneuil Hall, in Boston, Douglass is howled down by slavery advocates, and this time Wendell Phillips utters his famous "My curse upon the Constitution of the United States."

No matter whether Douglass is leading thousands of fugitive slaves into Canada, or agitating for colored troops in the Union armies, or campaigning for Lincoln's election to the Presidency, or opposing the migration of 60,000 freedmen into Kansas, in this book is found a picture of a great minority race battling for freedom, and doing it in much the same fashion as we are today.

There's no difference between the fight to end human slavery in 1860 and the fight to get an equal chance in industry and in the defense forces in 1941, and one has only to read Miss Buckmaster's new book to be excited about one's discovery of this fact.

"Let My People Go," by Henrietta Buckmaster, published by Harper, New York, 1941. Price \$3.50.

New York **Age**

New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

The Negro In Tennessee

MAR 15 1941

Dean A. A. Taylor has again written his name on the roll of historical scholars of the country in the production of his illuminating treatise on THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE 1865-1880. (Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C., price \$3.00). Here we have increasing evidence of the ability of the Negro to tell his own story. Numerous writers of the white race have written on reconstruction in Tennessee from the point of view of those who hated the Negro and finally eliminated him

from politics. Some of these writers tried to be fair, but they did not see the Negro except as a misfit and a marplot. In order to complete the picture the Negro must be given an opportunity to testify for himself. No honest judge will give judgment until this is done. Through this scholar, therefore, the Negro again gets a hearing at the bar of public opinion.

The average man with the usual American bias pays little attention to what the Negro says spontaneously in his own behalf, but in this book which the author has well documented in supporting his conclusions, historians of all races will find facts which will influence them to express a different opinion and possible to change their attitude. This scholarly work cannot be ignored. All must take it into account.

Dr. Taylor's background is an assurance of his ability to perform

his tasks. He is an educator of experience and for almost a decade has been serving as Dean of Fisk University. He is a product of the Public Schools of Washington, D. C., the University of Michigan, and Harvard where he obtained the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. For a number of years he worked as an investigator of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and during that time wrote two other books of similar import, namely, THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION and THE NEGRO IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIRGINIA. These books were warmly received some years ago when they appeared, and historians found in them such exposure of the untruth in most works on reconstruction as to necessitate the rewriting of the history of that entire period.

Dr. Taylor has wisely chosen the states to be studied. THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION presents the story of the state in which the Negro participated more freely than probably in any other during the rehabilitation of the rebellious commonwealths. Virginia and Tennessee belong to those states which were not so radically changed and did not offer the Negro as much opportunity for participation in politics as in the case of South Carolina. In studying these two extremes, therefore, Dr. Taylor has made it possible for the reader to grasp the meaning between these two extremes of government in operation at that time.

It is fortunate too that Dr. Taylor is further removed from the day of that struggle than most historians of the reconstruction and can study the situation most dispassionately. We are beginning to realize that most of the histories of the reconstruction were written by men who merely tried to whitewash their ancestors and to justify the illegal and cruel methods by which the Negro was eliminated from politics. Dr. Taylor has written with that restraint and care known only to the real scholar.

In the discussion of the Negro in Tennessee Dr. Taylor has followed the wise course in treating the social as well as the economic forces at work in the state. He has endeavored to prove that the reconstruction period was not altogether political but it was economic and social. While there were men in conventions and in legislative halls discussing political measures and working out reforms, the forces outside of these which had worked in the home, in the schools, and in the churches as well as in the industries of the state finally determined what the political outcome would be. This book, moreover, presents something new not in writing especially about the Negro but in projecting the Negro into the picture along with all other elements of the population. Other works on the reconstruction in Tennessee have merely referred to the Negro as a problem or an evil to be eradicated. In THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE the whole theater of reconstruction has been reproduced and Tennessee has been made a part of a national drama.

One of the important contributions made in this study of Tennessee is the background of the present day achievements in that state. After reading this work the present aspects of Negro life become clarified by knowing the peculiar course which matters took in that state three generations ago. Valuable services has been rendered in interpreting the past in terms of the present and the present in terms of the past. While looking backward this historian has looked forward, and he enables the reader to see in both directions.

C. G. WOODSON.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Albany Man Writes New Book on Negroes

ALBANY, April 28—Mrs. R. F. Cripps of Albany has written a book, The Glory Road, a work dealing with Negro life and Negro characters. It is expected off the press in the next few months, the author said. It is being published by W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

"Aunt" Fanny O'Neal, nurse of the Cripps children for more than 20 years, is a leading character in the book. The work is compilation in part of many short stories on Negro life written by Mrs. Cripps, some of which have previously been published as short stories in different magazines.

"Drums And Shadows" Traces African Cultures Among Coastal Georgians

MAR 27 1944

ATLANTA, Ga.—A first-hand study of customs, rituals and beliefs of the Georgia coastal Negro in and near Savannah is given in "Drums and Shadows", a book produced by the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project of the WPA just issued by the University of Georgia Press.

Faithful transcriptions of the speech of the 138 Negro subjects interviewed makes this WPA volume of interest to the average reader as well as to sociologists and anthropologists. It is revealed that many of the quaint practices and beliefs presented in the book have been handed down from father to son, generation after generation among slaves and descendants of slaves in the tidewater lowlands and coastal islands of the State. Conjure practices, religious survivals and tales of slaves from Africa are treated in "Drums and Shadows".

Long of Interest

"Artists, poets and novelists are not the only ones who have felt the allure of this region with its old plantations, its Negro peasantry," Dr. Guy B. Johnson of the University of North Carolina says in the introduction of the book. "The works of C. C. Jones, Jr.; John Bennett, Marcellus Whaley, Ambrose Gonzales, Reed Smith, Elsie C. Parsons, Ballanta-Taylor, T. J. Woofter, Jr., Guion G. Johnson, Guy B. Johnson, Robert Gordon, Lorenzo D. Turner and others testify to the continuing interest of scholars in the history, folklore, folk music and dialect of the Negro people of this region.

These Negroes, more perhaps than any others in the United States, have lived in a physical and cultural isolation which is conducive to the survival of many old customs and thoughtways, both African and European. The present work represents an effort to go a bit deeper than any other work has done into the aspects of the folk culture of these people in the coastal area."

While the age-old debate on the nature and importance of African heritage in American culture is not settled in "Drums and Shadows", Dr. Johnson points out that "the question is interesting and worthy of study. Such study may not only satisfy a wholesome curiosity but may throw light on the scientific problem of the processes which go on when two different cultures come into contact."

"Go Down Death" Recalled

Common beliefs and customs of some twenty Georgia coast and coastal island communities are treated in the

WPA book. Among these is the Yamacraw community made famous by the late James Weldon Johnson in his celebrated poem entitled "Go Down Death". There, "ghosts are everyday experiences. Root doctors are in constant demand."

It is pointed out, however, that the old Yamacraw of the tumble-down brick houses and wooden shanties is gone. Today, modern concrete dwellings built under the low-rent program of the United States Housing Authority have eliminated the "picturesque" but over-crowded, depressing and unhealthy living conditions among Negro residents of Yamacraw.

Thirty-one photographs by Murial and Malcolm Bell, Jr., of Savannah, make up a series of striking illustrations in the Georgia Writers' production. The oldest person interviewed, 110-year-old Tony Delegal, is pictured with work-gnarled hands. A fisherman of Pin Point, a drum-maker of Savannah and an ox-cart at Sapelo are among other subjects of illustration.

African parallels by scholars, missionaries and travelers who have lived among the tribes of West Africa are contained in an appendix covering a period dating from 1700 to the present.

"Drums and Shadows" is the result of extensive research undertaken by WPA workers employed on the Georgia Writers' Project.

A Colored Judge

News

Birmingham, Ala.

HARLEM: Negro Metropolis, by Claude McKay. Illustrated with photographs. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.; 262 pages, \$3.

THE ORDINARY REFERENCE to Harlem has to do with hot spots, night clubs, blaring trumpets and jammed dance floors. Claude McKay, himself a Negro and long a resident of Harlem, doesn't see his community in this single light. He knows the place to be the home of thousands of men and women carrying on the serious business of earning a living and playing an honorable part in their homes, their state and their nation.

Of course McKay has a good deal to say about night life in this unique Negro city; no story of Harlem could ignore the gaiety of the place. He also tells at considerable length of those fantastic figures who have stirred up so much racial and religious enthusiasm in Harlem. His story of Marcus Aurelius Garvey, the man who was going to take over Africa for the Africans,

is an excellent, if almost incredible, story. His account of Sufi Abdul Hamid, that "Mohammedan" seer, that "Black Fuehrer," is well worth reading. And his discussion of Father Divine is a challenging evaluation of an almost fantastic man and an even more fantastic movement. MAR 30 1941

When McKay writes of Harlem's daily life, of its famous characters, of the scenes on its streets, of its aristocracy and its slums, he is excellent. When he writes about interracial worries and advances theories about how to better the Negro and his relation with the white man, McKay is then not so successful; a certain bitterness creeps in and mars his thinking and mars his story.

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

Out Of The Frying Pan

Share Croppers All is the title of a recent book about the South by Arthur Raper and Ira Reid. The authors did not mean to imply by their title that all Southerners or even that all Southern tenant farmers were share croppers, but that the South as a region stood in a relationship to the North analogous to that of a share cropper to his landlord.

The share-crop arrangement is a very simple one. The landlord puts up the mule and "plow tools" to make the cash crop, as well as the land itself, and extends a restricted line of credit for seed, fertilizer, food and clothing. The share cropper puts up his labor, and the labor of his wife and children.

At "settling time" the share cropper gets half of the proceeds of the crop, less advances and less interest upon these advances—interest that is always high and sometimes is exorbitant. The share cropper pretty generally complains that under the arrangement it is next to impossible for him to "come out," that is, to accumulate enough to take the next step upward on the tenure ladder and to progress through "share tenancy" and "cash renting" to full ownership.

The hopelessness of the average share cropper is shown to have strong basis in fact by the studies of rural sociologists and agricultural economists. Rarely can the share cropper "come out" under the circumstances. And yet the census returns just announced show a precipitate decline in the number of share croppers during the decade 1930-40.

In 1940 there were but 541,251 share croppers, or approximately two-thirds as many as 10 years previously. What has happened to the 234,987 who disappeared from the ranks of this lowly group?

Very few have climbed to owner-

ship through governmental assistance, although the Census Bureau sets this down as one of the causes of the decline. Funds appropriated for this purpose have hardly sufficed to keep pace with the annual increment of tenant farmers, and the main line of governmental activity has necessarily been limited to a small loans program designed to keep tenants going at all and to prevent them from having to drop out of farming entirely.

The great majority of the 234,987 former share croppers are now worse off than before: they have gone to augment the numbers of wage-hands who "catch" a little work now and then picking cotton in the Fall or strawberries in the Spring. Or they have joined the milling horde of agricultural migrants in California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Florida and the states of the Eastern seaboard. Or they have crowded into the towns, swelling the ranks of the unskilled unemployed. They have been pushed off the land by acreage reduction, by drouth, by the increasing mechanization of cotton plantations, and by shifts in the farming economy like the Alabama Black Belt's spectacular replacement of cotton with cattle raising.

APR 3 - 1941

Displacement of share croppers and other tenants is proceeding upon an ever broadening and accelerating scale. Unsatisfactory as share cropping may be as a way of life and of farming, it does represent a working relationship with the land which is now being widely dissolved. The status of a casual laborer, a migrant or a relief client is certainly worse in most respects.

Rather than being a cause for rejoicing, the census figures showing the great decline in share croppers are a signal of grave social danger. We not only cannot afford to economize on programs endeavoring to serve low-income farm groups, but we must expand and develop them. This will be as truly in the interest of national defense as the production of arms, for we cannot afford to ignore the severe plight of any part of our people if our defense of democracy is to be total.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Four New Books By Race Authors Hit The Market

AUG 30 1941

BOSTON, Aug. 28 (ANP)—Four new books, authored by Negroes, have been recently issued by the Christopher Publishing House here.

Some Things We Saw While Aboard" deals with the problems of peoples of Europe, Asia Minor and Northern Africa. Written by J. F. Lane, Ph. D., and Mary Edna Lane, Litt. D. AUG 30 1941

Margaret C. McCulloch, A. B., M. A., compiled a biography on the life of Francis Julius LeMoyne, founder of LeMoyne college. The book is entitled "Fearless Advocate of the Right."

The author of "How To Be Successful Negro Americans" is written by Fitzhugh Lee Styles, LL.B.

The last book "The Voice in the Wilderness," deals with the theory of education and its connection with religion. Authored by M. Lafayette Harris, B. S., Ph.D., president and professor of philosophy of Philander Smith college.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Four New Race Books Released

AUG 25 1941

Published By
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"Some Things We Saw While Abroad" deals with the problems of peoples of Europe, Asia Minor and Northern Africa. Written by J. F. Lane, Ph. D. and Mary Edna Lane, Litt. D., it is a consensus of observations made by the authors while traveling through these countries. AUG 25 1941

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The author of "How To Be Successful Negro Americans," Fitzhugh Lee Styles, LL. B., seeks to give informative lessons to ambitious men and women who desire to attain the heights in Negro life and business. Styles is also author of "Negroes and the Law."

The last book deals with the theory of education and its connection with religion. Authored by M. Lafayette Harris, B. S., Ph. D., president and professor of philosophy of Philander Smith college, it

is entitled "The Voice in the Wilderness."

8-1941

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

BOOKS OF THE TIMES

By CHARLES POORE

MEMORIAL DAY is a good time for Northerners to hear from the South peacefully, and William Alexander Percy presents a modern Southern point of view with spirit and honesty in "Lanterns on the Levee,"* the uncommonly wide-ranging recollections of a poet, planter, soldier, lawyer, musician, raconteur and world traveler from the famous Mississippi Delta country.

Carl Sandburg, Julia Peterkin, Roark Bradford, David Cohn and Jonathan Daniels, who read "Lanterns on the Levee" months ago, before it was even old enough to wear a jacket, all agree that it is a fine book.

Mr. Sandburg tells us that Mr. Percy is to the State of Mississippi about what William Allen White is to Kansas or Fiorello La Guardia to Manhattan, and that if candor and forthrightness count, this autobiography, "haunted by some of the most ancient issues of justice and charity," is one of the books requisite to an understanding of America.

MAY 1941
In the Deep South

The writing is wry, witty and rather insistently patrician. There are pages about the Negro and the share-cropper that seem to stem from a thousand exasperated conversations with Northern visitors who laid down the law in these matters with less knowledge than authority. There are revealing chapters on childhood, family, friends, education at Sewanee and the Harvard Law School, a lonely year in Paris, service with the Hoover Commission in Belgium, in "The Peewee Squad" at an officers' training camp, and as a soldier in the A. E. F.

Peace had its battles as well. There were two furious campaigns when Mr. Percy's father fought the Vardaman forces over a Senate seat he held one term. After the war the Ku Klux Klan brought a warfare more bitter and unforgetting than anything Mr. Percy saw at the front, before it was driven from town. No other episode in the book reflects so much credit on Mr. Percy as his part in the fight against the Klan, not even his work in the great floods of 1927.

Old Times There Are Not Forgotten

Many ideas about the South's past, Mr. Percy suggests, exist "only in the imagination of Northern critics and Southern sentimentalists, one about as untrustworthy as the other." The tradition that all Southerners who are white and respectable have black mammys who are fat, elderly and bandannaed is erroneous. His own

mammy "was 16, divinely *cafe-au-lait*, and she would have gone into cascades of giggles at the suggestion of a bandanna on her head."

One of his ancestors was called Rinaldi. He says he has failed to stumble on the name in song, story or archive. What about "A Farewell to Arms"?

The elderly relatives who forever discuss family connections he calls "our Southern Norns, keepers of family Bibles, pruners of family trees, whose role is to remember and foretell—to remember glory and foretell disaster—while in the gaudy day outside the banker's daughter, Brunhilde, elopes with the soda-water jerker." And again: "Playing Tarzan in the family tree is a hazardous business; there are too many rotten branches."

MAY 3
Look Away, Book 1/2 way

The chapter on Sewanee would read best, I imagine, in a reunion class book; the following one, on Mr. Percy's year abroad, is considerably less rose-lit, though he spent months in the Louvre, "the longest, tallest, widest, worst-hung, most exhausting, irritating and magnificent gallery in the world." The Prado has none of those faults and so was the best of all possible museums of art.

At Harvard, Mr. Percy looked at the New England breed with "curiosity, not hostility." However, there was good music around, and "We cherished Galski, though she looked like a horse, and when she lay down by Tristan's body she couldn't rise by her own power."

As a member of the Hoover Commission in Belgium in 1916 he saw the return of the Belgians the Germans had sent into forced labor, "skeletons, with blue flesh clinging to their bones, too weak to stand alone, too ill to be hungry any longer." This, he suggests, was a miniature venture into slavery, a prelude to the enslavement of whole peoples the Germans are practicing now.

A Memoir of the Last War

Mr. Percy's chapter on life in the training camp in 1917 is remarkably fresh and lively now, and in describing the war days in France he contrasts the letters he wrote his parents with the actualities of those days. On the way over he met Gerstle Mack, who was to run an engineering program with labor drawn from the cut-throat and Apache set of Paris.

The period of his life he spent in the line during the war is the only one, Mr. Percy writes, that he remembers step by step, as if it moved *sub specie aeternitatis*. Not that he enjoyed it,

or that he was fitted for it by temperament or ability, but that somehow it had precise, unswerving meaning.

Today he runs a model plantation and his days are pretty eventful, as a specimen one, with notations hour by hour, shows. They're full enough, but he might have time enough to write another book about his travels beyond the Delta, barely hinted at here, for the most part, from Greece to the South Seas.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

BOOK REVIEW

(By Louise Glass)

FAITH CABIN LIBRARIES

(By Francis Allen in The Library Journal—March 1941.)

Not long ago we read a dramatic success story, "One Dollar and a Prayer." Now comes another success story which might well be called, "One Dime and an Idea."

In 1930 Willie Lee Buffington, mill post hand, wanted to do something about a condition common to the rural south, that is: no libraries available to Negroes. But, what could he, a mill hand, do? He had a dime that he could spare from his skimpy wages, so he bought some stamps and sent letters to people who might be interested.

As if by magic, his idea caught on. One letter alone brought a thousand volumes. In a short time Oberlin college had heard of this experiment in library work, going on in the back woods of South Carolina and established a unit in that state. Dartmouth and other schools and churches followed. Iowa City, Iowa sent 7,000 volumes.

Faith Cabin Libraries are located on the grounds of Negro schools. Sometimes they are in one of the school buildings, sometimes on the grounds.

As might be suspected, these libraries are not built and managed according to standards of library science. Library cards are too much of a luxury. Records of loan and return of books are kept in a book. Teachers at the school volunteer to act as librarians. Labor and materials for shelves and so on are donated by the community.

Faith Cabin Libraries now have 26 units and have about 100,000 books. There is no way to estimate the amount of pleasure and inspiration they have brought to the people of South Carolina. Some of these

people don't know how to read very well and naturally they read very slowly. But, they get a lot of enjoyment from it anyway. It goes without saying, information is gained.

Then, too, these libraries serve as kind of social centers. One comes to get or return a book and he sees friends on the same mission.

Anyone who would like to contribute some books may send them prepaid to: W. L. Buffington, Edgerton, South Carolina.—Louis Glass.

Nation

New York, N. Y.

Mr. Percy's Culture

LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE. By William Alexander Percy. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.

IS IT possible that the South is the nation's economic problem No. 1 because it is first of all the nation's intellectual problem No. 1? Mr. Percy's interesting and provocative autobiography makes clear that it is quite possible. Here is the life story of a man who is not so much a typical Southerner as a superior Southerner. William Alexander Percy can trace his ancestry through some of the finest families of the old mint-julep South. He went to Sewanee and the Harvard Law School. He traveled abroad in the aristocratic tradition of the Grand Tour. Upon visiting Athens he was so eager to see the Acropolis that he rose at six o'clock and rushed out without his breakfast. Moreover, throughout a busy life this man has cultivated the arts of thought and of living. Mr. Percy is aware of at least some of the great social strains that underlie the fabric of Southern life, and he would like to do something about them. From such a man we have every right to expect the best of Southern thought.

So it is all the more astonishing, and all the more disappointing, to discover that the theories and opinions of this fine flower of Southern life are at bottom very similar to those held by the rednecks and the peckerwoods and the vulgarians. Take, for example, Mr. Percy on the Negro question: "I would say to the Negro: before demanding to be a white man socially and politically, learn to be a white man morally and intellectually."

This admonition will be popular in reactionary circles of the South. It possesses that air of benevolent paternalism so dear to the Southern heart. It does not say, Black Brother, the door is closed forever, there is no hope for you. Rather it says, Struggle on, Black Brother, be obedient, tip your hat to your betters, and in a thousand years or so maybe you will be as good and as smart as I am now, and then possibly you can have the vote and a berth in the Pullman car.

But everyone except the reactionaries will recognize Mr. Percy's paternalistic admonition to be pretty hollow nonsense.

It is also dangerous, for it assumes that moral and intellectual development must or can come before social and political development. This assumption, I submit, is contrary to all experience. The Negro, like all other races, will make all four of these developments more or less at the same time. In the days of slavery Mr. Percy would no doubt have insisted that the Negro must attain moral and intellectual parity with the white man before he should have his freedom. But freedom, a political and a social gain, was the key to the whole world, without which there was nothing. Mr. Percy would probably argue that the Negro then lost a part of his freedom because he did not make the moral or intellectual advances necessary to sustain it. But that would be turning history upside down, for the Negro was robbed of his political freedom in large part before he had any chance whatever to show what he could do with it. Nevertheless, something of freedom did remain, and without it the progress since made by the Negro would have been impossible. Surely political freedom must come first of all; for the only way to prove that one deserves freedom is to be free. Just as emancipation was the key in the 1860's, so now it seems clear that wide enfranchisement is the key to further progress. By insisting upon an impossible perfectionism, Mr. Percy would lock the door and withhold the key.

Mr. Percy's position on share-cropping is equally disappointing. He says: "Share-cropping is one of the best systems ever devised to give security and a chance for profit to the simple and unskilled." Then he continues: "It has but one drawback—it must be administered by human beings to whom it offers an *unusual* [my emphasis] opportunity to rob without detection or punishment." Mr. Percy thus condemns the system in his own words, apparently without realizing that he is condemning it. He also seems unaware of this dilemma: if the croppers become skilled and informed they will doubtless overturn the system—and thus do away with the basis of Mr. Percy's culture; while if they remain simple and unskilled, somebody will always be only too happy to cheat them. The main indictment against the share-cropping system, however, is not moral but economic; the system is wasteful of labor, land, capital, and management. It would still be a vicious system, even if all the landlords were as sweet as Pollyanna and as kind-hearted as Santa Claus.

If a man so alert as William Alexander Percy can do no better than this, what are we to expect from the vulgarians? Our Southern reactionaries will be delighted to learn that, aside from a few dislocations which alarm Mr. Percy, so little is really wrong with our social system, and especially to have the assurance from so cultured a gentleman in such skilful prose. But the rest of us must say in sorrow, Somehow we must do better than this or we shall surely perish.

CHARLES CURTIS MUNZ

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Novelist Wright Gathers Material For Another Book

NEW YORK—In preparation for a novel to succeed his famous "Native Son," Richard Wright is currently busy with interviews of judges, social workers, and city officials. The new novel will treat with domestic workers and employment agencies.

The interviews are being arranged by Wright's attorney, Allan Taub, whom the author met in 1934 before the publication of "Native Son" and while Taub was on tour lecturing in behalf of the Scottsboro boys.

Typical of Wright's research procedure in preparing material for the new novel is his experience in the Court of General Sessions where, in an interview with Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, he and Atty. Taub sat on the bench beside the judge during the trial of a young North Carolina Negro.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.
Fiction

THE WORSHIPING TRIBE. By Henry Allyn. 12mo. Los Angeles, Calif.: Midland Press, 1046 South Olive Street. A philosophical and historical novel of an African tribe.

New Nation
New York, N. Y.
Out of the Night

THE DARKEST HOUR. By Leo Lania. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$2.75.

LEO LANIA is an Austrian journalist who earned the hatred of Hitler as long ago as 1923, when he wormed his way into Nazi ranks under the pretense of being an Italian Fascist and subsequently wrote an exposé of the Munich beer-hall putsch. Lania was rewarded for this act in 1933, when the Nazis came to power, by having a price put on his head. He fled to Paris, where in spite of his long anti-fascist history he was placed in a concentration camp at the beginning of the present war. His situation was no different from that of thousands of other refugees who were judged by their nationality rather than their sentiments. While officials of the purest French blood were allowed to connive without hindrance in the highest government offices, anti-fascists like Lania were locked up.

After the country was overrun by the Germans, many of the refugees went straight from the hands of their French captors into the even less merciful ones of the Gestapo. Lania was one of those who escaped, and the story of that escape, a fine adventure story told with literary distinction, forms the substance of this book.

The incredible personal hardships suffered by Lania make all the more remarkable the balanced tone in which his book is written. He does not step before the reader to point the moral of his story but lets each incident speak for itself. Most of the incidents of this narrative are vivid enough to need no underlining. The reader is not likely to forget the figure of the terrified Negro whom Lania encounters while he is still in Nazi-occupied territory. He has become separated from his regiment and is trying to escape falling into the hands of the Germans.

A towering figure stepped toward us. A Negro. His face shone like polished ebony, and his eyes rolled like two white marbles. The rain ran down his cheeks.

"Have they passed?" he asked. He was trembling all over, and his teeth were chattering.

"Where do you want to go?" I asked him.

"I don't know. If they catch me—. They don't take us prisoners. They shoot us."

When asked about his companions, he continued in broken French, "Soldiers all prisoner. Negroes not took prisoner . . . they kill Negroes. Why? Aren't we soldiers too?" Such scenes are more likely to bring home the meaning of Nazi racial theories than any abstractions of partisan politics.

Edgar Ansel Mowrer has supplied a short but penetrating introduction to the book. Mr. Lania's translator, Ralph Marlowe, also deserves to be credited.

MILTON HINDUS

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia
Texas Woman Wins
Prize For Novel
On Negro Life

NEW YORK—(ANP)—A \$2,500 prize for a first novel, dealing with life among Negroes in a small town, has been handed to a white housewife, winner of the first annual Thomas Jefferson Southern award, a competition sponsored by the Virginia Quarterly Review and E. P. Dutton Company, New York publishers. She is Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Wheaton of Texas City, Texas. The award was made of \$1,000 outright with the balance representing an advance on royalties. The book, entitled "Mr. George's Joint", will be published in the fall by Dutton's and the Review.

In her manuscript, Mrs. Wheaton pictures Mr. George, her central character, as the operator of a beer and soft drink parlor in the Negro section of a small southern town. Here the people of the community generally hold their social rendezvous. Inasmuch as the book's action is developed from this point, the author has attempted to reflect the life of the community through George showing how completely apart the Negroes are from the white man of the town.

Mrs. Wheaton is a native Texan and has lived in the state the better part of her life. She is said to be annoyed by the moving picture versions of Negro life and therefore has tried to give a better understanding of him. She claims no special knowledge, but doesn't think this necessary if one is interested in the Negro.

8-1941

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

LITERARY CREATION AND THE SOUTH

Today a fact which no one argues is that the South has in the past two decades given to the country its fair share of artists who have created literature able to take its place along with the finest in the country.

W. J. Cash, writing about literature and the South in a recent issue of The Saturday Review of Literature disposes of the above mentioned fact after a few introductory paragraphs which name outstanding authors. He asserts that since 1939 anybody who fired a gun in the region was practically certain to kill an author, a good author too. Now since the South is producing literary works of measurable importance critics are finding it interesting to analyze, compare, and speculate about the southern authors and the southern viewpoint.

Lest any one think we have a quarrel with this regional consideration, let us say here that The Advertiser approves of regional literature, for has it not given us in this country some of our most beloved flavors? To be brief witness only two, O'Henry and Mark Twain. Regionalism is a part of circumstances which make for poignant rating.

Mr. Cash, taking up the interesting discussion of the makers of this new literature from the South, says:

The makers of this new literature differ widely in their viewpoints and interests, of course. For instance, Mrs. Peterkin and DuBose Heyward, while exhibiting an enormous freshness in their approach to the Negro—they were the first southern novelists to deal with him in recognizably human terms instead of those of the old convention — still retained considerable vestiges of sentimentality. Both were prone to see only the poetical or ingratiating aspects of the Negro's lot.

On the other hand, not a few of these writers — perhaps even a majority of those who came up in the twenties — showed a marked tendency to react to a new extreme, and as they sloughed off the old imperative to use their writings as a vehicle for glorifying and defending Dixie, to take more or less actively to hating and denouncing the South. Thomas Wolfe made Eugene Gant openly hate the section. And though Faulkner has denied that he has any interest in anything but the individual, there is in his works a kind of fury of portraiture, a concentration on decadence and social horrors, which is to our purpose here. The case of Caldwell is manifest. And readers of The American Mercury in H. L. Mencken's time as editor will recall that baiting the South in its

pages was one of the favorite sports of young Southerners of literary and intellectual pretensions.

In reality they hated the South a good deal less than they said and thought. Rather, so far as their hatred was not merely vain profession designed to invite attention to their own superior perception, they hated it with the exasperated hate of a lover who cannot persuade the object of his affections to his desire. Or, perhaps more accurately, as Narcissus, growing at length analytical, might have suddenly begun to hate his image reflected in the pool.

All these men remained fundamentally southern in their basic emotions. Intense belief in and love for the southern legend had been bred into them as children and could not be bred out again simply by taking thought; lay ineradicably at the bottom of their minds, to set up conflict with their new habit of analysis and their new perceptions. And their hate and anger against the South was both a defense mechanism against the inner uneasiness created by that conflict and a sort of reverse embodiment of the old sentimentality itself. Thomas Wolfe almost explicitly makes Eugene Gant recognize as much.

Mr. Cash finds the continuing power of the southern heritage in one form or another in each southern author's manner of writing. In style, he points out, there seems definitely to be something in each descended from the old southern line; Wolfe's rhetoric, Faulkner's loving choice of highly colored words, and even Mr. Cash asserts, something in the carefully stripped style of Caldwell.

Turning from style to content Mr. Cash finds southern authors growing steadily more realistic: He comments:

In the case of the Caddells and the Faulkners, sternly rooting out not only sentimentality but even sentiment, so far as it was possible, emotion of any sort, these new southern authors remained in some curious fashion romantics in their choice of materials—shall we say, romantics of the appalling. Or am I mistaken in thinking that the essence of romanticism is the disposition to deal in the more-than-life-sized, the large and heroic, the picturesque and vivid and extravagant? But however much the new southern authors might differ in their approach to their material, and regardless of what faults they might still display, nearly all of them had decisively escaped from the old southern urge to turn the country into Never-Never Land, that nearly all of them stood, intellectually at least, pretty decisively outside the legend; and so were able to contribute to the region its first literature of any bulk and importance. And at the same time, in one measure or another, to cast light on the southern social scene and direct attention to southern social problems. The very concentration of the hate-and-horror school upon their chosen materials served the latter pur-

pose admirably, regardless of their own intentions.

To which I should add that, as time passed, the hate reaction and its loud profession in some quarters tended to dwindle. It is not often to be observed in books published in the last two or three years. The calm, good-humored criticism of Jonathan Daniels's "A Southerner Discovers the South" and of the North Georgia Review, an able little quarterly published at Clayton, Georgia, by Lillian Smith and Paula Snelling, is now becoming a general characteristic.

The proposition that Southern writers of any importance were generally moving toward a more clear-eyed view of the Southern world even has a certain applicability to a group which might seem to stand wholly outside what I have been saying. I refer to the so-called Southern Agrarians, who made their appearance in the late twenties, with the center of their activity at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and who were led by John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, and Donald Davidson.

Perhaps because Mr. Cash is not in sympathy with the Agrarians is the reason he devotes the lengthiest part of his article to a careful and generous treatment of their writings in relation to the southern viewpoint and other southern writings. He says that this group was primarily one which turned its gaze sentimentally backwards. He points out the significance of the appearance of this group just as the South was moving toward the crisis of the depression, "just as Progress was apparently sweeping the field and as new critics and writers were beginning to swing lustily against the old legend and the old pattern." He says further: "In a real fashion these men were mouthpieces of the fundamental, if sometimes only subterranean, will of the South to hold to the old way; the spiritual heirs of Thomas Nelson Page."

He places these yearnings to the past as a part of all that yearning for the past which "has moved in an unbroken stream since the early 19th century revolt against Rousseau.

In closing Mr. Cash, who is a kind critic, gives credit where he can:

"These Agrarians have had the bad influence of encouraging smugness and sentimentality in many quarters, and even of giving these vices sanction as a sort of higher wisdom. But it is fair to say that that has probably been well balanced out by their services in puncturing the smugness of Progress, in directing attention to

the evils of laissez-faire industrialism, in their insistence on the necessity of developing a sensible farm program for the region, and in recalling that the South must not be too much weaned away from its ancient leisureliness."

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

BOOK REVIEW

(By Louise Glass)

JAN 9 1941

"IT'S OUR COUNTRY TOO"

(Written by Walter White in Saturday Evening Post, Dec. 14, 1940.)

This article, "It's Our Country Too," has been featured as a news item in Negro journals throughout the country. No doubt millions have read it or read about it. We hope that several million white people will read it — and think about it. Strange as it may seem, there are a good many well informed white people who are almost totally ignorant of the discriminatory practices of their native United States.

Those familiar with Mr. White's writing know what he can do with words — especially when he gets to telling white people what he thinks of the American brand of democracy.

Most of us are quite familiar with some of the difficulties faced by the race as a whole, in getting jobs. But conditions, exposed in this article, seem almost incredible.

Some might say, well, if they prefer to let Hitler and his gang shoot them down, let them go ahead. We can stay home and manage to enjoy life.

But this matter can not be so simplified. "It's our country too" and if we don't bear our share of the burdens and responsibilities we can't expect to enjoy the freedom and the opportunities found here. Because after all, we have plenty to defend — a lot more than we would have under Hitler.

This article should open the eyes of its readers to the hypocrisy and the inconsistency of fighting for democracy and at the same time refusing certain individuals, because of race, the right to earn good wages and above all, the right to help protect and defend those things that make life worth while.

Even though this article cuts like

a two edged sword it is said that it had to be revised several times before the publishers would take it. The original must have been pure TNT.

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Virginia Book Review

JAN 18 1941

"FROM MY KITCHEN—

By ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS
Berkley Goodwin. Wendell
Mallett and Company, New York,
N. Y. \$2.00.

THE book by Ruby Berkeley Goodwin, is an inspiring collection of poems by a Negro mother, author and lecturer of Fullerton, Calif. The book, according to Margaret Widdemer, internationally known poet and Pulitzer Prize winner, "is the sincere emotional expression of a woman who is an outstanding member of her race. . . . They range from short domestic lyrics to longer poems of the social conflict. They possess honesty, fluency and warmth of feeling.

"From My Kitchen Window" has a fine philosophy. The poems are especially notable for lack of bitterness and their vision of a better future. . . . It is a volume shadowing forth a beautiful, acceptant and courageous character."

Mrs. Goodwin was born in DuQuoin, Ill., and graduated from San Diego State College. Her literary career begun at the age of 11 when she became poet and society editor of her school paper. Winning a prize of \$100 in a short story contest, she became inspired to follow writing as a career.

Her first work was published in 1927. Collaborating with William Grant Still, she wrote 12 dramatic stories interpreting Negro spirituals. She has followed many lines of work in an endeavor to succeed as a writer. The mother of five children, she has found time to be a success with them.

Constitution Atlanta, Georgia The Old South.

SWEET 'POSSUM VALLEY, by Christine Noble Govan. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston. 202 pp. Illust. \$2.00.

Summers spent at Sweet 'Possum Valley were happy experiences for Carrie, Hallie and Sam Stone. Life at the plantation home of their cousins, Emma and Grady, was more exciting than in McMinnville, Tenn. The young cousins with their five personally picked little darkies as "bodyguards," explored the woods, originated games, tended their "special animals," and best of all listened to the tall tales of Uncle Jephtha, Ed Martin, and Marie,

the nurse. There was a mystery at Sweet 'Possum Valley this summer—a mystery involving a strange Indian, Tennessee's notorious Bell Witch, and many peculiar incidents. And so the summer passed with its crowded days of excitement, run and interest.

Christine Noble Govan writes in her charming, sympathetic style. She writes of the old south which she understands and loves. Author of books about "those Plummer children," Mrs. Govan adds to her laurels these new "Sweet 'Possum Valley" characters whose appeal will delight young readers.

RUTH M. GREEN.
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Poetry and Drama
ARROWS OF GOLD, edited by Peter Wellington Clark. 12mo. New Orleans, La.: Xavier University Press, Xavier University, Washington and Pine Streets.

An anthology of verse by Catholic Negro students.
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

LET MY PEOPLE GO. By Henrietta Buckmaster. 8vo. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$3.00.
FEB 23 1941
The story of the Underground Railroad and the growth of the Abolition movement.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE PLANTATION SOUTH, 1934-37. By William C. Holley, Ellen Winston and T. P. Foster Jr. 12mo. covers. Washington: United States Government Printing Office.

An economic and social survey.
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Music.

AMERICAN NEGRO SONGS, edited by John W. Work. Howell Soskin & Co. New York. 259 pp. \$3.50.

"American Negro Songs" will delight the lover of spirituals as well as the fully rounded musician. It is the most complete and authoritative collection of the American Negro's folk songs ever published. The author, John W. Work, a member of the faculty of Fisk University, is a descendant of one of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers, who toured America and Europe from 1871 to 1878 and were the first to present Negro music on the concert stages. He has had access to the complete records of the Jubilee Singers and has spent many years of travel and research in the south gathering material from first-hand sources. They are all here—religious and secular songs, worksongs, blue, social songs, gay and tuneful, and mournful or low down.

W. C.

AMERICAN SLAVERY AND MAINE CONGREGATIONALISTS

By Calvin Montague Clark. Bangor, Me.: Published by the author, 1940. xii+198 pp. \$1.50.

JAN 1941
That social action has not been of recent origin among the Congregationalists is a platitude to anyone who is acquainted with the record of this denomination in connection with the antislavery agitation. Congregationalists everywhere, almost without an exception, were active, and often prominently active, in the struggle.

But this is a sweeping generalization. In order to put teeth into it a solid substratum of historical facts is needed. Dr. Clark in his carefully documented work—the result of patient research in a subject hitherto inadequately treated—has produced such a detailed historical study as far as Maine Congregationalism is concerned.

The first period covers the thirties of the nineteenth century, during which the antislavery sentiment in the churches organized itself into various societies, advocating such diverse programs as the repatriation of the Negroes in Africa (Liberia), opposition to slavery by merely moral, religious, or in some cases political action, and finally by immediate abolition of slavery either with or without compensation to the slave-owners. Almost all these groups felt that slavery is inconsistent with the profession of Christianity. Dr. Clark confesses that as he "has proceeded with his task he has come to have a profound sympathy with, but a somewhat modified admiration for, that coryphaeus of abolitionists, William Lloyd Garrison" (p. viii).

JAN 1941
Divisions III and IV deal with the forties and describe the action taken by the various antislavery societies, and the fifties, during which the storm was gathering. The church was faced with the tragic alternative: either obey the laws of the government, particularly the revised Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, or defy the government in extending aid to escaped Negro slaves. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1854 increased this tension even more. On the whole, Congregational churches continued to extend aid to slaves and, by organizing emigration into newly opened territories of the Louisiana purchase and the Oregon region, helped to defeat the pro-slavery elements in this new part of the country.

It will be of particular interest to Congregationalists of middle western states that Elijah Parish Lovejoy, who died a martyr for the antislavery cause in Alton, Illinois, was the son of a Maine Congregational manse, and his entire family was prominent in the cause for which he died. His brother, Owen, continued the heroic struggle against slavery as minister of the Congregational church at Princeton, Illinois.

This excellent study is a valuable contribution to the subject.

New York Age New York, N. Y.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JAN 4 1941
Criticizes Book Review

Editor, The New York Age:

In a review in the December number of The Crisis of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois' book, "Dusk of Dawn," Charles Edward Russell finds a fatal flaw in the author's plan of a Negro cooperative commonwealth within the structure of the nation, because "It is based upon the recognition of the Negro as a Negro," and he asks, "What is a Negro?"

Just why he should object to the Negro recognizing himself, or to the world at large recognizing him, as a Negro, is an enigma. To be sure, the world now recognizes him as such, and has done so throughout the centuries it has contacted him; and the Negro, himself, is coming to the same point, slowly, it is true, but inevitably. For him not to do so would be to run counter to all human experience.

JAN 4 1941
Does Mr. Russell, and those who share his views, object to Englishmen being known as Englishmen, Irishmen as Irishmen, or of Germans, Italians, and the multitude of races who inhabit the earth being recognized by the names by which they are known in history and in human society?

JAN 4 1941
In human life, men are often faced with certain inescapable facts and conditions to which they are compelled to adjust themselves. External nature prescribes certain laws and conditions by which they must exist, and men willingly or unwillingly adjust themselves to them, because there is no other course to pursue. In the social life of mankind men have always grouped themselves, or have been grouped, into what is termed races. These groups or varieties of the human race are sometimes known by names of their own selection, and again by names bestowed upon them by other races. The ancient Greeks are a case in point.

If these groupings of human beings into races is, as Mr. Russell says, the result of a "superstition"

derived from the cave-man, and is "preposterously false" because "there are no races," then humanity as we know it in the supposed superior light of the Twentieth Century is decidedly superstitious, for the most enlightened and progressive groups of humanity in our times are distinctively race-conscious.

JAN 4 1941
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

score. FEB 23 1941
The Midnight Special and Other Southern Prison Songs. Lead Belly and Golden Gate Quartet. (Victor, three ten-inch records, \$2.) Lead Belly, which is what they call Huddie Leadbetter, joins with the Golden Gate Quartet in forthright singing of this group of six songs. It is pleasant to report that the quartet does less fancy singing than on recent single disks which have seemed showy and cute. The songs—The Midnight Special, Ham an' Eggs, Grey Goose, Stewball, Pick a Bale of Cotton and Alabama Bound—are best when they are done vigorously and without embellishment, as they are here.

8-1941

Palmetto Leader
Columbia, S. C.

Traces of African Culture Revealed in "Drums and Shadows" Issued by Ga. WPA

FEB 1 1941

ATLANTA, Ga.—A first-hand study of customs, rituals and beliefs of the Georgia coastal Negro in and near Savannah is given in "Drums and Shadows," a book produced by the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project of the Work Project Administration just issued by the University of Georgia Press.

Faithful transcriptions of the speech of the 130 Negro subjects interviewed makes this WPA volume of interest to the average reader as well as to sociologists and anthropologists. It is revealed that many of the quaint practices and beliefs presented in the book have been handed down from father to son, generation after generation, among slaves and descendants of slaves in the tidewater lowlands and coast islands of the state. Conjur practices, religious survivals and tales of slaves from Africa are treated in "Drums and Shadows."

"Artists, poets and novelists are not the only ones who have felt the allure of this region with its old plantations, its ox-carts and its Negro peasantry," Dr. Guy B. Johnson of the University of North Carolina says in the introduction of the book. "The works of C. C. Jones, Jr., John Bennett, Marcus Whaley, Ambrose Gonzales, Reed Smith, Elsie C. Parsons, Ballanta-Taylor, T. J. Woofter, Jr., Guion G. Johnson, Guy B. Johnson, Robert Gordon, Lorenzo D. Turner and others testify to the continuing interest of scholars in the history, folklore, folk music and dialect of the Negro people of this region. These Negroes, more perhaps than any others in the United States have lived in a physical and cultural isolation which is conducive to the survival of many old customs and thoughtways, both African and European. The present work represents an effort to go a bit deeper than any other work has done into the aspects of the folk culture of these people in the coastal area."

While the age-old debate on the nature and importance of African heritage in American culture is not settled in "Drums and Shadows," Dr. Johnson points out that "the question is interesting and worthy of study. Such study may

not only satisfy a wholesome curiosity but may throw light on the scientific problem of the processes which go on when two different cultures come into contact."

Common beliefs and customs of some twenty Georgia coast and coastal island communities are treated in the WPA book. Among these is the Yamacraw community made famous by the late James Weldon Johnson in his celebrated poem entitled "Go Down Death." There, "ghosts are everyday experiences. Root doctors are in constant demand." It is pointed out, however, that the old Yamacraw of the tumble-down brick houses and wooden shanties is gone. Today, modern concrete dwellings built under the low-rent program of the United States Housing Authority have eliminated the "picturesque" but over-crowded, depressing and unhealthy living conditions among Negro residents of Yamacraw.

Thirty-one photographs by Muriel and Malcolm Bell, Jr., of Savannah, make up a series of striking illustrations in the Georgia Writers' Project production. The oldest person interviewed, 110 year-old Tony Delegal, is pictured with work-gnarled hands. A fisherman of Pin Point, a drum-maker of Savannah and an ox-cart at Sapelo are among other subjects of illustration.

African parallels by scholars, missionaries and travelers who have lived among the tribes of West Africa are contained in an appendix covering a period dating from 1700 to the present.

"Drums and Shadows" is the result of extensive research undertaken by WPA workers employed on the Georgia Writers' project.

New York ~~are~~

New York, N. Y.

Writes Autobiography



WILLIAM STANLEY BRAITHWAITE professor of Creative Literature at Atlanta University, whose autobiography, "The House Under Arcturus" begins in the January issue of "Phylon," Atlanta University's review of race and culture.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

BETTY BLAKE, O. T. By Edith M. Stern, in collaboration with Meta R. Cobb. 12mo. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. \$2.

A story of occupational therapy. DAVID AND PATIENCE. By Edith Talant. 12mo. Philadelphia, Pa.: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$2.

A story of Newfoundland for boys and girls from 8 to 12.

THE COUNTY FAIR. By Tasha Tudor. 16mo. New York: Oxford University Press. 75 cents.

A new picture book by the author of "Pumpkin Moonshine."

ON SAFARI. By Theodore Waldeck. 12mo. New York: The Viking Press. \$2.50.

The adventures of an explorer.

BIG KNIFE. By William E. Wilson. 12mo. New York: Farrar & Rinehart. \$2.

A boys' story of George Rogers Clark. Illustrated by John R. Frazier.

WALT DISNEY'S THE PRACTICAL PIG. 4to. New York: Garden City Publishing Company.

A story of the Three Little Pigs and a lie detector. Illustrated by the Walt Disney studio.

PARSLEY THE HORSE. By Dorothea Filosa. 8vo. New York: Garden City Publishing Company.

A picture story of a horse who

liked pink.

RIRE ET APPRENDRE. By Marion Louise Pierron. 8vo. New York: Frederick Unger, 240 West 102d St. \$1.25. A child's first French book. With illustrations.

CHINA'S ANIMAL FRONTIER. By Clifford Pope. 8vo. New York: The Viking Press. \$2.50.

An account of collecting animals for the American Museum of Natural History in China, by the author of "Snakes Alive."

THE BELLE. By Ellen Tarry. 4to. New York: Garden City Publishing Company. 50 cents.

The adventures of an orphan colored baby.

DONALD'S PENGUIN. 4to. New York: Garden City Publishing Company.

A story of Donald Duck and a pet penguin. Illustrated by the Walt Disney studio.

Telegraph

Macon, Georgia

African Superstitions

DRUMS AND SHADOWS, Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project, WPA, University of Georgia Press, Athens. 249 pp. \$3.

As you, dear reader, have more superstition than you ever admitted to yourself, this book will have many things of interest to you, for it is full of interviews with Negroes who have brought down from their African ancestors

all the ghosts and haints and witches and conjurers, all the amulets and signs, all the evil spirits and good spirits that the Indians and white Americans know or have heard about. They have even seen hoes chopping cotton by themselves while the people supposed to be using them were lying in the shade of a tree or else were flying in the clouds back to Africa. They could come and go through the air when they pleased, provided they had the "power," the conjuring power. In some instances young Negroes were taught they had to kill somebody with the conjure before they could have the full "power."

The 50-page appendix contains a digest of all of the folklore that has been brought over from Ethiopia or other parts of Africa, and it is most interesting. When you read it and consider that so much ignorance abounds in the world among all races even to this day, you can well understand how crackpots like the warlords can command such power and why so

many people will follow them blindly if not fanatically.

A law should be passed forbidding the printing of books that have no reference indexes. This volume is well indexed, and you can find things in it almost instantly. You will enjoy it more if



you read it in piecemeal. You get tired of the sameness if you read steadily too long, but it is refreshing for occasional reading.

—EUGENE ANDERSON.

Long-Range Planning

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN POPULATION POLICY. By Frank Lorimer, Ellen Winston, and Louise K. Kiser. Harper and Brothers. \$2.50.

FEW persons realize the extent to which America's population is failing to reproduce itself. The continued increase in population in the past decade has blinded most of us to the fact that we are already well along the spiral of declining population. In 1935 the reproduction rate of the white families was only 96 per cent of that necessary to maintain a stationary population. For Negroes it was slightly lower. The actual peak in population will be reached some time between 1955 and 1980, and by that time the change in age distribution will be such that a resumption in population growth would be unlikely even if the birth rate should suddenly rise. It is estimated that there will be eight million fewer persons under twenty years of age in 1980 than there were in 1930 and, at the same time, some fifteen million more of sixty-five years and over.

To a greater extent than most recent books on population, this brief, popularly written work deals with the social and economic consequences of current population shifts. The unemployment problem, it points out, has been intensified by the disproportionate number in the population who are now at the productive ages. Between 1870 and 1930 the total population doubled in size, but the labor supply tripled. In recent years an abnormally large proportion of the population has been coming of age each year; hence the so-called youth problem. The fact that large families are prevalent chiefly among unskilled workers and in agricultural regions where inadequate educational opportunities exist makes the absorption of these young people especially difficult in a highly mechanized society.

The authors are quite aware that what ordinarily is referred to as a "population problem" is really an economic problem. Given reasonable assurance of security, the birth rate would probably rise enough to check the decline in population. Given a more widespread distribution of wealth, we should no longer be plagued with concern lest the least fit and least trained swamp those who are well trained and of good stock. To meet the situation the authors present a fairly comprehensive program of reform. They point out that new means of facilitating investment and stimulating economic enterprise will be required, together with an increase in the general levels of consumption and a more rational coordination of economic activity through planning on a national scale. Such planning should place special emphasis on a equitable distribution of economic opportunity in relation to the distribution of the population. Sound population trends, the authors maintain, are likely to appear only if society is motivated by social and cooperative ideals.

The book is a valuable contribution to the necessary in-

tegration of the social sciences and deserves wide reading.

MAXWELL S. STEWART

The Plaindealer Kansas City, Kan. Views Of Others

NEW BOOK ON
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

By Thelma Buckmaster for ANP

The latest publication to find the "Underground railroad" a subject of universal interest is Harper Bros. who are honoring Negro history weekly by releasing "Let My People Go" in February. Written by Harrietta Buckmaster, the book represents four years of intense research work as well as extensive travelling along the underground railroad routes to interview persons related to "conductors" and slaves who made the perilous trip to Miss Buckmaster, who is a well known magazine writer and also the author of two novels, "Tomorrow Is Another Day" and "His End Was His Beginning", happened across the subject of her most recent book quite by accident. She read a biography of Harriet Tubman and was so impressed with the courage and nobility of this amazing fugitive slave woman who rescued over 300 slaves at the risk of her own life that she was determined to make a further study of her.

"I had absolutely no idea how that one book would change my plans", said Miss Buckmaster. "I was then doing work for the Reader's Digest and as I read I was so irresistibly drawn to that I stopped everything else and devoted myself utterly to it. I learned a phase of our American history that is totally ignored, as I went deeper and deeper into the research a picture of the South began to emerge based on court records, southern newspapers, letters, testimony of slave owners, documents, and it was amazing how all this bore utterly no relation to the South we are taught to accept, the South of Stephen Foster, of Moonlight and Roses.

"I was hungry for more material on the subject, but I discovered that nothing new had been printed since 1866 until this children's book on Harriet Tubman, 'The Railroad to Freedom'. My interest had been so stirred by these revelations that it drove me to some full-time investiga-

tions. As I studied the records it occurred to me how little Americans actually know about one of the most dramatic periods of our history".

Now, after four years of intensive research during which time she travelled about extensively to interview persons and descendants of those involved in abolition work, and in which her Negro friends, students who have specialized in this period, have been of inestimable help, Miss Buckmaster has finally written her book. During these four years she has read well over 500 books, newspapers as well as private documents, and has lost count of the private papers, the letters and pamphlets which she has studied.

"Let My People Go!" is the first book on this and related subjects, Miss Buckmaster stated.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessee
February 9, 1941

BOOK ON NEGRO YOUTH

A Fisk University professor Dr. Charles S. Johnson, director of the social science department, is the author of a book just off the press on Negro Youth.

Published by the American Youth Commission, of which Owen D. Young is chairman, the book is entitled "Growing Up in the Black Belt."

Advanced data of the commission describes the book as a study based on interviews obtained through a statistical sampling of communities, families, neighborhood groups and individuals in six rural counties of the South.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

Paul Laurence Dunbar FEB 22 1941 Critically Examined

DUNBAR CRITICALLY EXAMINED, by Victor Lawson (Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 Ninth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., \$2.00), has just come from the press. This is the first effort of any American to undertake a literary interpretation and an appraisal of the career of this Negro poet. As a rule, we mention only a few of his popular poems. Dunbar is generally spoken of as a successful lyric poet.

Mr. Lawson is the bright young man who has recently finished his education at Howard University under the influence of Professor

Sterling A. Brown, one of the advanced thinkers of the race and probably its best critic of the productions of Negroes in the English language.

The book was produced as a thesis offered in completing the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at Howard University, but it surpasses in many respects the average requirements for such academic honors.

Many of our accredited universities are now conferring the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for dissertations which do not show as much research and original treatment as we find in the treatise of Mr. Lawson. While there will be many who will differ from him as to his attitudes and his conclusions, all must stamp his effort as commendable and encourage him to think further and to write more.

Examine All Works

Mr. Lawson undertakes to examine briefly all works produced by Paul Laurence Dunbar and to appraise him as a writer in the light of all that he produced rather than to emphasize merely the most creditable of his productions. Here Dunbar is presented not only as a lyricist but as a short story writer, novelist, and playwright.

Mr. Lawson's conclusion is that with the exception of his lyric poetry Dunbar was weak and failed to reach the higher level attained by the great writers in the English language. Such criticism may be considered either new or old. It is certainly not any unusual discovery to prove that most of what our greatest poets have written falls far below standard. They are remembered for the best things which they have done and for those only. The author is at fault in apparently blaming Dunbar for not doing the impossible, namely, to excel in everything he undertook.

Questions Author

The author is wrong also in holding it up as a defeat that Dunbar was not a liberal writer with thoughts very much like those of the Socialist or Communist of our time. In other words, Dunbar is unsympathetically held responsible for not being able to think as people are now thinking almost a half century after the time that Dunbar lived.

The public is indebted to Mr. Lawson for a searching examina-

ing the picture to give a view of Dunbar not as a Negro poet but as a poet.

C. G. WOODSON.

tion of Dunbar's works, but few nation a complete picture of the will agree that he has approached times about which Dunbar wrote. his problem according to all the It is of much worth also that principles by which the literary these excerpts are brought into historian should be guided. What is herein said by way of other authors, by whom Dunbar review, however, is not intended as an argument against the value of this work. In the 151 pages the literary contribution of the volume are given hun- Negro but a chapter in the history dreds of verses which reflect the of English literature. Mr. Lawson thought of Dunbar and enable the reader to construct in his immagi-

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Harriet Beecher Stowe's Life Story Is Skilfully Told

MAR 5 1941

MAR 5 1941

"Crusader in Crinoline," by Forest Wilson. (Lippincott, \$3.75.) Published today.

BY FANNY BUTCHER.

Harriet Beecher Stowe to most of her contemporaries was either the most inspired evangel of her day or the blackest fomenter of unnecessary bloodshed. Even in the perspective of time her "Uncle Tom's Cabin" ranks among the important influences leading to the civil war. To both the north and the south it was much more than a book; it was an emotional prairie fire.

But Harriet Beecher Stowe was a human being as well as the author of the most influential novel in American literary history; and it was to breathe the breath of life into the well known monument that Forrest Wilson undertook this biography. How well he has succeeded any reader will know after the first page, when his attention is caught by the author's skill, and never relinquished for almost 700 closely packed pages.

Forrest Wilson has written a book which sparkles and shimmers in the light of the research which has penetrated not only every crevice of the life of his heroine but which also illuminates her background so brilliantly that her period lives as vividly in these pages as she does herself. And yet the author has so painstakingly kept his eye on his subject that there is never any doubt in the reader's mind that he is reading about a person and not about either a place or a national state of mind.

The chapters on Cincinnati, for instance, give a more memorable picture of the "Queen City of the West" in the early 19th century than this reader can remember anywhere outside the source material of the travelers and natives' records. And yet the shy, nervous, melancholy Harriet Beecher—who became the harassed Mrs. Stowe there—never loses the reader's rapt attention as he reads of the daily impacts of slavery on her sensitive conscience—feels the influence of an Eliza crossing the ice.

The rarest quality that any biography can have is to give the reader the sense of the growth of the hero or heroine as a human being. It is obvious that really fine novels do that.

Really fine biographies do also. In "Crusader in Crinoline" Harriet Beecher Stowe develops before the reader's eyes.

Mr. Wilson has written about Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author, as he has about Harriet Beecher Stowe, the woman, and has rescued from oblivion the literary career of a writer who, even in her lifetime, had already become to the public the author of only one book, altho "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was only one of almost a half century's continuous literary output.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT. By Remond Gilman Smith. Pamphlet. Tulsa, Okla.: Published by the author. Box 2123. 5 cents. FEB 16 1941

An objection to alleged activities of the President's wife in behalf of the American Youth Congress.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Economics and Sociology

GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT. By Charles S. Johnson. 8vo. Washington, D. C.: American Council on Education. \$2.25. FEB 16 1941

A study of Negro youth in the rural South, prepared for the American Youth Commission.

Nation

New York, N. Y.

HANS HABE, a Hungarian journalist now in this country, was formerly foreign editor of the Viennese *Morgen* and foreign correspondent of the *Prager Tageblatt*. He is the author of two novels, and will shortly publish a book of his experiences abroad.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

HAS NEW BOOK

MAR 1 1941



Lieut. James L. H. Peck, aviator and writer on aviation subjects, whose new book, "So You're Going to Fly," is being published by Harper & Brothers this week. Mr. Peck's first book was "Armies With Wings," a best-seller in the field of aviation. In the March issue of Harper's magazine, Mr. Peck has written a thrilling story of the flight of five brand new bombers to England from Canada.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

FARMERS IN A CHANGING WORLD: The Yearbook of Agriculture, 1940. 8vo. Washington, D. C.: Superintendent of Documents. \$1.50. FEB 9 1941

Studies in social and economic problems of the farmers.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

WEST POINT IN THE CONFEDERACY. By Ellsworth Elliot Jr. 8vo. New York: G. A. Baker. \$3.50. FEB 16 1941

An account of West Point graduates in the Confederate Armies.

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

THE NEGRO IN ART. Edited by Alain Locke. 12mo. Washington, D. C.: Associates in Negro Folk Education. Box 636, Ben Franklin Station. \$4. FEB 16 1941

A pictorial record of the Negro artist and of the Negro theme in art.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Recollections of Houston by his former slave.

MY MASTER. The true story of Sam Houston. Edited by Jeff Hamilton as told to Lenoir Hunt. 8vo. Dallas, Texas: Manfred, Van Nort & Co. \$2.50. FEB 16 1941

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE COUNTESSES TO GO. By Jack Iams. 12mo. New York: William Morrow & Co. \$3.50. FEB 16 1941

A comedy of love and advertising art in the Virgin Islands.

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

APR 19 1941

COLOR AND HUMAN NATURE—W. Lloyd Warner, Buford H. Junker and Walter A. Adams, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. \$2.25.

An interesting study prepared for the American Youth Commission after a survey of Negro youth in Chicago. The 206 pages in the book represent the findings from 800 case studies in Chicago's "Black Belt."

APR 19 1941

The book is the last of the regional Negro personality development studies conducted for the American Youth Commission and its authors examine the structure of that social hierarchy and its effect upon the youth who must contend not only with racial minority status but with color lines within their own group.

Color is the most important single element that determines for better or for worse the development of Negro character—color as a badge of racial separateness and color gradation for rise or fall in the Negro social hierarchy. That is the theme the authors use.

"What a Negro has to say about his color and that of other people, together with his response to color evaluations, may often furnish a direct key to all or most of his thoughts about himself and his very existence," the authors find. "Such evaluations somehow get involved in almost every incident in his life." An increase in white discrimination against Negroes in Chicago is found by the writers who say "the separation of the races has become more pronounced."

W. Lloyd Warner, senior author and supervisor of the study, is associate professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Chicago and has conducted similar investigations in Massachusetts, Mississippi and Illinois. He is author of "A Black Civilization" and has contributed widely to journals and books. Walter A. Adams, himself a Negro and chief of the psychiatric division of Provident Hospital in Chicago, contributed the psychiatric interpretations in the personality studies. Buford H. Junker, who abstracted the case studies and organized the material for the report, has engaged in research projects in the rural South for the Julius Rosenwald Fund, and in Michigan and South Carolina for the General Education Board.

Frontier Days in South Africa

Peter Rainier's Recollections Go Back to the Restless Times of Gold and Diamond Seeking and Many Campaigns

MY VANISHED AFRICA. By Peter W. Rainier. 307 pp. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$2.75. NOV 24 1940

By MARY L. JOBE ARLEY

"MY VANISHED AFRICA" is an epic narrative of frontier life—a story of such high adventure as could only befall a man fortunate enough to have been born half a century ago and who pioneered in those restless days of gold and diamond seeking. Peter W. Rainier goes far beyond his own personal experiences. He casts a revealing light upon the history of South Africa between the Anglo-Boer War and the end of World War I.

Rainier, born in a tent in Swaziland, was brought into the world by the wife of a witch doctor. His boyhood home was an ox-wagon, for his sailor father had become a transport rider between Lourenço Marques and the new gold mines in Barberton. Then came the Witwatersrand, where corrugated-iron shanties and outspanned wagons spelled the beginnings of Johannesburg. But the elder Rainier left the greatest gold strike in history for a farm in Natal bordering Zululand. Playing with Zulu children and welcome in the chief's kraal, the boy learned to fight and to hunt small game with throwing sticks, and to speak the Zulu language more readily than his own. When at school he heard the Boer Long Toms battering at Ladysmith and saw a skirmish between the fast-riding Boers and the British rushing to the relief of the beleaguered town. He witnessed, too, the bush-telegraph carrying the news of Queen Victoria's death a hundred miles an hour across the veld. At 16 he became a trooper in the Natal Carbineers that subdued the Zulu rebellion.

In Kimberley, Rainier's lot was cast in the ultimate wilderness. With a partner he prospected for three months and found diamonds in the burning Namib Desert. Next, Rhodesia. Then, Mozambique, where he persuaded Chris Human, "second only to Frederic Courtenay Selous," to teach him the science of hunting elephants. And the old hunter taught him to be "afraid of elephants all the time. Every time I drop one, I'm astonished that such a little thing as a bullet can stop an elephant. He's as heavy as a small locomotive, as active as a cat—just ten tons of pure concentrated bloody murder when he's charging." Soon, elephant hunting was abandoned because even in that early day there was nothing bigger than a fifty-pound tusk left in the country. NOV 24 1940

Rainier had now reached young manhood. In Portuguese territory, he searched for gold on the unexplored Ruenya. He rode transport through the tsetse fly belt to the Mpunga Forest with machinery to extract rubber from ward, where lies the land to which he gave his name, Rainier was enrolled as a scout under the famous Demillion attached to General Mackenzie's force. After Luderitzbucht they engaged in that epic march across the arid wasteland from Aus to Gibeon—a march of 300 miles in seven days on one day's rations! The defeat at Gibeon prevented the Southern German force from uniting with the northern army soon successfully attacked by Generals Botha and Smuts.

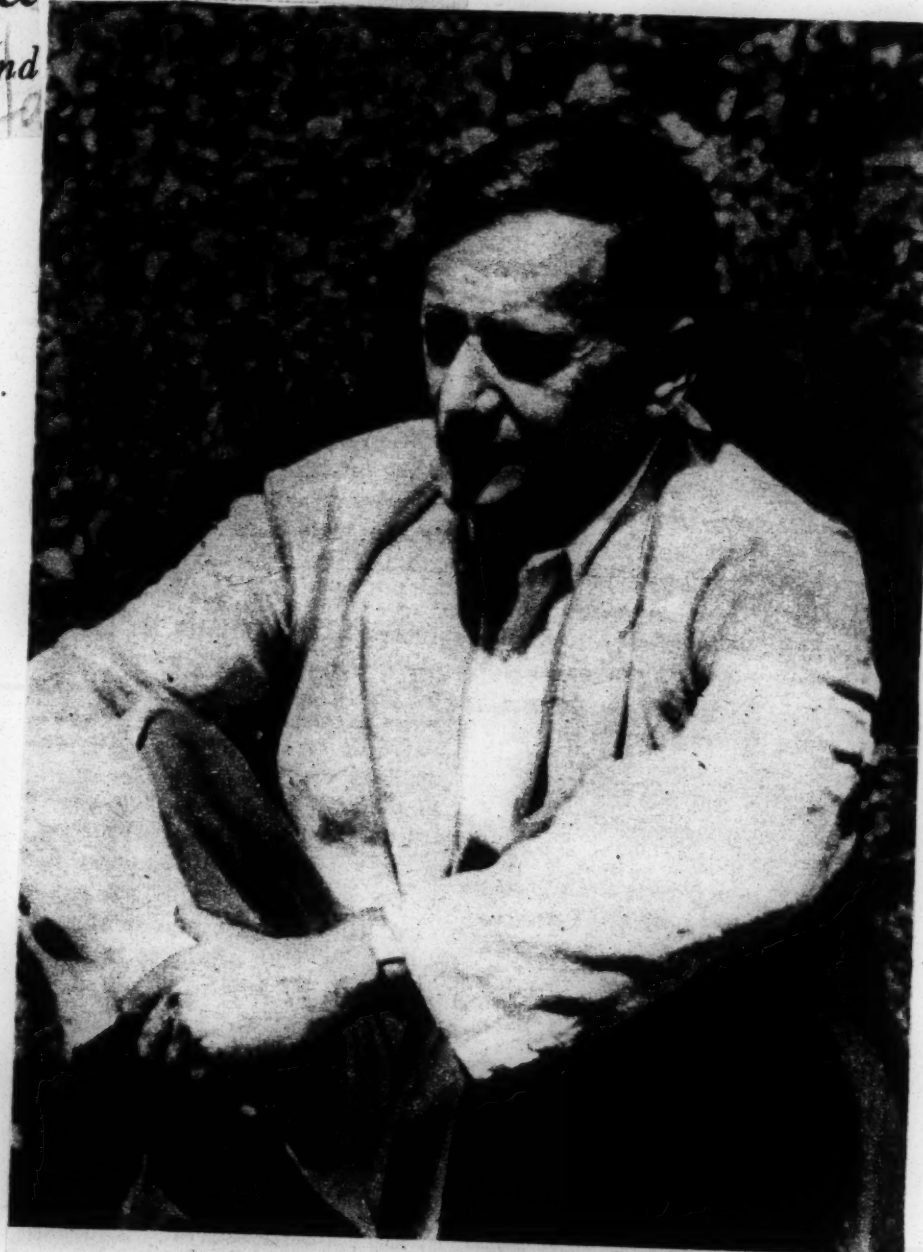
After the Southwest campaign, Rainier was sent to Mozambique to stop the gold thieves and thence to the Nigerian tin mines, where he transformed "a stretch of barren country from a battlefield of Pagan tribes into an in-

dustrial entity." NOV 24 1940
Lovers of the wilderness will find in "My Vanished Africa" a story of compelling interest. Many of us will envy Peter Rainier his years in unspoiled Africa. No one who knows Africa can fail to appreciate his courage, his resourcefulness, his truthfulness, his modesty. One of the greatest charms of the book lies in the author's evaluation of his fellow-men—his praise for the valiant of whatever race or blood the Landolphila rubber vine. Often hunger and thirst walked with him; eventually malaria and blackwater fever overtook him.

Now he began to witness the inevitable changes creeping into the hinterland. Men were pouring into the country—not the ragged, hard-bitten type of the past, but well-dressed, prosperous, "the kind that shave every day, bulge in the middle and would play out in an hour on a hard march. But they had money to invest. They dreamed aloud of sisal plantations, mahogany, rubber, mines, land concessions which they would develop. But investments were hard to find for lack of men who knew the country." NOV 24 1940

This was Rainier's chance and he was signed on at a figure that made him gasp. With a gang of natives he cleared 100 acres for an experimental wattle plantation for tannin production. Mozambique was booming. Rainier was ready to prove his mining concession on the Ruenya when 1914 arrived and world chaos. He volunteered immediately for the German Southwest African campaign. At the Rondebosch camp, near where the great bronze Rhodes looks ever to the north—Zulu, Hansa, Boer or British; his contempt for the weakling, the coward, the thief, the retreat-

ing Germans who poisoned the wells in the evacuated towns they left behind.



Peter Rainier.

'What Negro Gives His Church' Now Published In Booklet

JAN 4 - 1941

Bishop Wright Makes His Study of Church Finance Available To All.

Shortly after Bishop R. R. Wright returned from South Africa we published in the columns of this paper a series of articles on "What the Negro Gives to His Church." In this article the Bishop, using figures from the United States census, showed that the Negro gives less than two cents out of his dollar income to the support of the church and pointed out the common error that the Negro gives a large amount of money to the church.

Says the bishop: "That the facts and figures from the United States Census that the Negro gives through his church around \$40,000,000 a year, that he has an income at the smallest calculation of \$2,500,000,000 a year.

"After the Negro has spent his \$40,000,000 for the church, he has approximately \$2,460,000,000 left." The bishop asserts that out of the small amount the Negro gives to the church, he has accumulated over \$212,000,000 worth of church property, that he has over 40,000 church, over 6,000 parsonages, that the Negro church operated colleges, schools, publishing houses home and foreign missions, old folks homes, pension societies, children's homes, newspapers, magazines, etc.—all out of less than two cents out of the Negro dollar.

The bishop claims that the Negro has organized this two cents better than he has organized the remaining 98 cents, and calls upon the race to cease criticizing the church for its use of the two cents, and turn to organizing the 98 cents.

He compliments the beginning made by the race newspapers and insurance companies, but calls attention to the fact that Negroes spend far more for amusements than they do for churches. They however, have little amusement property as compared with church property. They spend ten times more for shoes but have very few shoe factories, etc.

The pamphlet covers 16 pages. It is illustrated with the bishop's picture and costs only 15 cents, if ordered from Bishop R. R. Wright at Wilberforce, Ohio.

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tennessee Eneas Africanus Now Reissued

ENEAS AFRICANUS. By Harry Stillwell Edwards. Grosset & Dunlap. \$1.

Eneas Africanus may be a stranger to you. But if you meet him, don't tell your mother and father that you claim discovering him; chances are they chuckled over the loyal old darky's troubles years ago when the book was first written.

Eneas is back in print now, which comes under the head of things as they should be. It is just as well that another generation should have its half-hour of reading and its years of memories from the little volume which tells of his eight years' wandering through the South until he could find his master again; should laugh at him and have its heart-strings pulled, too.

Harry Stillwell Edwards, one of the South's best loved authors, died two years ago. This new edition of his Eneas Africanus is introduced by a letter from his daughter, Roxilane Edwards. That's the only change in the book. Eneas himself, being immortal, is just the same as ever.

ST. JOHN WADDELL.
Staff The Commercial Appeal.
Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
The Old South.

SWEET 'POSSUM VALLEY, by Christine Noble Govan, Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston. 20 pp. Illust. \$2.00.

Summers spent at Sweet 'Possum Valley were happy experiences for Carrie, Halle and Sam Stone. Life at the plantation home of their cousins, Emma and Grady, was more exciting than in McMinnville, Tenn. The young cousins with

their five personally picked little darkies as "bodyguards," explored the woods, originated games, tended their "special animals," and best of all listened to the tall tales of Uncle Jephtha, Ed Martin, and Marie, the nurse.

There was a mystery at Sweet 'Possum Valley this summer—a mystery involving a strange Indian, Tennessee's notorious Bell Witch, and many peculiar incidents. And so the summer passed with its crowded days of excitement, run and interest.

Christine Noble Govan writes in her charming, sympathetic style. She writes of the old south which she understands and loves. Author of books about "those Plummer children," Mrs. Govan adds to her laurels these new "Sweet 'Possum Valley" characters whose appeal will delight young readers.

RUTH M. GREEN.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa
BOOK REVIEW

(By Louise Glass)

HUGHES SAYS GOODBYE
TO "GOODBYE CHRIST"

(Pittsburgh Courier Jan 11, 1941)

By Langston Hughes

Some years ago we watched with eager interest Langston Hughes' meteoric rise to fame. A smart boy, got a little too smart—a smart aleck. We wondered just what had got into him when he gave us "Goodbye Christ."

Now, after nearly ten years, the more mature Mr. Hughes makes, not only an explanation, but a practical retraction also. We can understand when he says, "Having left the terrain of the 'radical at 20' to approach the conservative at 40, I would not and could not write "Goodbye Christ." (Most of us can stand up and testify that we did and said things at 20 that we have too much sense to say at 40).

Mr. Hughes goes on to tell why he reached his radical conclusions. Again we can understand. He cites the stark injustices that prevail over so-called Christian communities—the exploitation of the poor and the ignorant—color bars—we know a list of them.

Most of us felt a jolt when one of the greatest religious organizations in the world sanctioned the Italian

invasion of Ethiopia on the ground that it would open the way to bring civilization and Christianity to that backward people. The same argument was made in favor of slavery.

Evidently Mr. Hughes realizes that Christianity is now just what it has always been—regardless of the hypocrisy that attempts to conceal it—the simple teachings of Jesus.

Now that you have been big enough, not only to see a mistake Mr. Hughes, but publicly acknowledge it, we shall forget therefore raised by your "Goodbye Christ." Our admiration for you has grown—L. S.

Guardian

Boston, Mass.
MARY CHURCH TERRELL

Mrs. Mary Church Terrell returns to the lecture platform here after a long absence. It is more than a half-dozen years since she last addressed a Boston audience. Lately she has turned her attention to authorship. Her new book, an autobiography, has just been published under the title, "A Colored Woman in a White World". As a lecturer she early gained distinction on her scheduled tours of principal cities in the West and South and occasional visits to New England. Few women have equalled her in a sustained career as a platform speaker.

She will speak here Sunday afternoon, January 13, at a meeting in the Twelfth Baptist Church under the sponsorship of the Iota Chapter of the Delta Sigma Sorority. It is especially fitting that she is invited here by a group of young college-trained women. For Mrs. Terrell belongs to that galaxy of pioneers who had the courage and determination to go to college when women's aspirations for higher education were more often opposed and ridiculed than encouraged and defended. Women of today who go freely to institutions of higher learning owe something to the earlier graduates whose success in college and afterward helped to make easy and respected the scholastic paths of increasing members of young women from succeeding generations. Moreover, it is an impressive fact that after women had won freedom of education came, step by step, all the other freedoms which have elevated womanhood in America to the highest status in the world.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Alain Locke
JAN 11 1941
Art Book Author

WASHINGTON.

(For ANP)

Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard University and widely-known art critic, author of several books on African art, has just had published by the Associates in Negro Folk Education a comprehensive survey of the colored man in art.

This book is designed to be of service to students of art in all its aspects, as well as to artists and those professionally interested, who desire a collection of fine reproductions of the work of colored artists.

Divided into three parts, the book first treats the artist, with a pictorial review of the work of artists from the earlier colonial pioneers to the latest young contemporaries. The second section traces the treatment of the subject as a theme in both American and European art generally.

Part three, briefly illustrates the representative varieties and the principal regional styles of African art and indicates its influence on modernistic art.

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New York Times New York, N. Y. A Southern Guide

SO YOU'RE GOING SOUTH! By Clara E. Laughlin. Illustrated. 639 pp. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$3.

"SOUTH," in Clara E. Laughlin's latest guidebook, means the South Atlantic States — Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. She explains in her foreword that there has never been a one-volume guide to these five States; and in this as in the other "So-You're-Going" books Miss Laughlin gathers an uncommonly wide variety of subjects within one volume, as well as a broad geographical range. She assumes travel by motor car, but of course her guidance will be equally enriching to travel by any other means of transportation. She follows the country southward, from Arlington and Mount Vernon to Pensacola and Tarpon Springs.

And, as readers of her European guidebooks learned long since, she makes pictures, scenes with living actors, everywhere. Scarcely have we seen Robert E. Lee at Arlington than we are delightfully introduced to the young "Farmer Washington" at Mount Vernon. Lafayette appears in South Carolina. The Wright Brothers are among North Carolina's immortal denizens. Martha Berry rides her horse through the isolated Georgia communities, getting Berry Schools. There are odd stories, such as the mystery of Marshal Ney in North Carolina. There is the brief but interesting sketch

of Durham's tobacco industry. There are introductions to Rollins College in Florida and the University of North Carolina. And in Georgia there is something about the share-croppers, too.

You may learn about Lynnhaven, Princess Anne turkeys on succeeding pages in the Virginia section. And of course you will learn about the citrus fruits of Florida. You may also welcome Miss Laughlin's suggestions for stopping places on your Southern trip. In short, this is a real guidebook, inviting, informative and practical.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia



WILLA CATHER,
author of "Sapphira and the
Slave Girl."

Novel of History.

SAPPHIRA AND THE SLAVE GIRL. By Willa Cather. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 295 pp. \$2.50.

Willa Cather's novel have been absent from the publishers' lists for five years. She returns with a work of modest proportions, but one which shows that she has lost none of that mastery of style that characterized "Shadows on the Rock" and "Death Comes for the Archbishop." It is a novel of history, the setting in the mountains of northern Virginia, where Miss Cather was born. The time is just before the outbreak of the War Between the States, the conflict of two traditions—the

fiery independence of the mountain folk versus the slave-holding traditions of the tidewater country. This conflict is personified in two great characters, Sapphira Colbert and her husband. The issue of slavery vibrates between them and dominates the atmosphere of the entire community. Deftly Miss Cather weaves around this theme the warp and woof of individual destinies, with consummate artistry foreshadowing the immense tragedy that was soon to descend on this countryside. While this novel, because of the modesty of its scope, scarcely attains to the status of her earlier novels, it is nonetheless of profound interest and allows the hope that Miss Cather will return to this background to write about it more abundantly.

OLE H. LEXAU.

Pelham, Ga. Journal
March 13, 1941

THE NEGRO IN LITERATURE AN ESSAY

BY MARTHA BUSH

The Negro has long been a favorite topic of Southern literature. Thomas Nelson Page and Joel Chandler Harris stand out as the most effective depic-tors of Negro life. Everyone has at some time read a story by Joel Chandler Harris; his volume "Tales from Uncle Remus" is very popular with juveniles. Harris, a native born Georgian has put into his Negro stories nevolences and cheeredib?

the intangible qualities of benevolence and cheerfulness characteristic of the South. Stephen Collins Foster has given us, in his songs, the melancholy side of Negro life.

Of the moderns, DuBose Hayward and Julia Perterkins best portray the Negro. Porgy tells the story of a blind beggar who typifies the average darky in his acceptance of fate. Porgy has been made into an operetta by the late George Gershwin.

Julie Peterkin is famous for her "Scarlet Sister". This novel describes perfectly the everyday scenes of the South. Mrs. Peterkin has the power to picture her characters in such a way that they almost materialize before our own eyes.

The Negro spirituals are representative of a type of Southern literature that has gained rapidly in popularity. Although not of great value as models or example of classic literature they are beloved because of their spiritual quality and because of their human appeal.

News Birmingham, Ala.

ALABAMA'S TRAGIC DECADE

"Alabamiana," a hobby of ours, is enriched in the publication by the Webb Book Company, Birmingham, of "Alabama's Tragic Decade."

The author is John Witherspoon DuBose, bachelor historian of Alabama, who died in a railway accident in Birmingham in 1918 after contributing many articles and a few volumes to Alabama history.

But the series of 84 articles entitled "Ten Years of Alabama, 1865-1874," which he published in The Birmingham Age-Herald in 1912, would never have come to general literary and historical notice were it not for the work of a slight, pleasant Howard College professor who manages to teach top-notch courses and yet finds time for the writing of scholarly books.

The editor of "Alabama's Tragic Decade," a book which is DuBose's newspaper articles carefully organized and shaped into continuity, is Dr. James K. Greer, head of the Howard College department of history. We remember him well from our student days. He could make men walk out in flesh and blood from the pages of the textbooks. Not many professors can do that. It should have given some forewarning of the man's coming note as author and editor.

"Alabama's Tragic Decade" is the revelation of things that happened between the time when Alabama was surrendered to the North and the time when the state finally was rescued from Negro-Republican domination. It offers no pretty picture. In fact, the story of wanton oppression by Northern conquerors is so vivid that one man who lived through the period handed us back our copy after reading a few chapters and was in a terrible state of temper. The stuff was much too true, he said, and he got too mad reading it. He couldn't read any more.

But most Alabamians will enjoy reading the entire book, for they will be proud that Alabama could come forward so gloriously after such degradation.

Students of history and of current events may also find a significant parallel with the harsh treatment of defeated countries following the World War.

After reading "Alabama's Tragic Decade," some may think more seriously on the problem of fair treatment for defeated peoples.

No war is really won by the victor who persecutes the defeated. Such a victor reduces his triumph to a mere prelude to the next war. —Anniston Times.

8-1941

Twenty New Books FEB 05 1941 Prepared By WPA

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—At least twenty books prepared and issued by units of the Federal Writers' Project were referred to this week by Alfred Edgar Smith, Staff Adviser, Federal Work Projects Administration, as a store of fresh, authentic material which will enrich as never before the Negro History Week celebrations sponsored throughout the country by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, February 9-16th.

Large numbers of state and national research reports compiled by workers on rolls of the WPA were also cited by Mr. Smith as new aids for civic, religious, educational and fraternal groups planning closer study and wider dissemination of facts concerning the Negro in all walks of life.

"Some of the books produced by State Writers' Projects of the WPA are devoted entirely to the achievements of the Race," the Staff Adviser said. "Others include the life and history of the Negro as an integral part of whole studies. Though the WPA research reports deal mainly with current economic and social trends in urban and rural Negro communities, these particular books and pamphlets make the backdrop for the momentous events which will be recorded in tomorrow's history of our nation."

The "Cavalcade of the American Negro," produced by the Illinois Writers' Project, was singled out by the Staff Adviser because of its vivid account of the Negro as a soldier and sailor fighting side by side with other forces in every major encounter for the defense of the nation.

FOUGHT IN REVOLUTION

Three thousand colored troops were sent from every colony to bolster the hard-pressed American forces during the Revolutionary War, the Illinois WPA book says. By August 24, 1778, General George Washington had over 700 of these troops under his personal command. The resistance put up by Negro troops covered the retreat of the American and French forces from Savannah on October 9, 1779.

"The War of 1812, begun to protect American seamen, many of whom were Negroes, found colored men again serving the colors. Commodore Perry commended the valor of black sailors at the Battle of Lake Erie, and their deeds there caused the New York legislature to authorize the formation of a Negro regiment to join the army at Sackett's Harbor. General Andrew Jackson praised the work of the five hundred Negro soldiers who fought under his command at the Battle of New Orleans," the "Cavalcade of the American Negro" continues.

With their own freedom as the prize, 180,000 Negro soldiers measured swords with their former masters in the Civil War. "These men rendered distinguished service at Milliken's Bend, July 6, 1863; Port Hudson, May 7, 1863; Fort Wagner, July 30, 1864; Petersburg, July 30, 1864; and at Nashville, December 15-16, 1864," the Illinois WPA book recounts.

FOUGHT IN FRANCE

In addition to telling the well-known story of heroic Negro troops in the Spanish-American War, the "Cavalcade" says that under the Selective Draft Act during the First World War, 342,277 Negro registrants were inducted into full military service. Of this number, about 200,000 landed in France and fought for democracy.

Upsetting many other "traditional" ideas of the race, "The Negro in Virginia," issued by the Virginia Writers' Project of the WPA, presents the claim that the twenty Africans landed at Jamestown in the year 1619 and their successors for many years following were not slaves but indentured servants. After slavery was legally sanc-

tioned the first recorded revolt against this system of involuntary servitude was initiated by slaves themselves in the year 1687.

Other WPA Writers' Project publications and books in the American Guide Series regarded by Federal WPA Staff Adviser Smith as "musts" in the Negro History Week celebrations are:

"The Negroes in Nebraska," a study, sponsored by the Omaha Urban League, tracing the life of the Negro in the State from 1539 to the present; a "Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas"; "Drums and Shadows," a first-hand study of strange folkways of Georgia coastal Negroes; "These Are Our Lives," published by the University of North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill; "Beaufort and the Sea Islands," a South Carolina WPA study made possible by the Beaufort Clover Club; "Delaware: A Guide to the First State"; "New York City: Guide to the World's Greatest Metropolis," a book which includes rich historical and current facts on the Negro; "New Orleans City Guide"; "North Carolina: Guide to the Old North State"; "Philadelphia: Guide to the Nation's Birthplace"; "Savannah"; "Seeing Saint Augustine (Florida)"; "Tennessee: Guide to the Volunteer State"; "Washington: City and Capital," a book whose essays on the Negro stirred Congressional debate in 1938; and "Georgia: A Guide To Its Towns and Country."

Not to be overlooked in any study of the Negro in American history is the five-hundred-page "Catalogue of Books in the Moorland Foundation." This Catalogue was made possible by a WPA library project which employed 23 workers at the Founders' Library at Howard University. In addition to listing the Moorland Collection composed of 5,000 publications by or about the Negro, this project enabled the workers to complete the task of uniting in a systematic manner the largest card record of literature on the Negro ever made available in one place. The publication dates for some of these books extend from the years 1659 and 1682 to late in the year 1940.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Scholarly Work on South Forms Absorbing Book FEB 12 1941

"The Mind of the South," by W. J. Cash. [Knopf, \$3.75.] Published Monday.

BY FANNY BUTCHER.

Almost never does this reviewer feel that she must quote from a dust jacket blurb of a book. In the case of "The Mind of the South," however, these sentences on the jacket exactly describe the author's purpose and evaluate his results: "The philosophy, temperament, and social customs of the south brilliantly analyzed and interpreted. . . . It is perhaps the most important contribution toward our understanding of American life and manners since Van Wyck Brooks' 'The Flowering of New England.'"

"The Mind of the South" is a companion volume to Van Wyck Brooks' great work in its high aim and accomplishment, in its subtle and deep understanding of the psychology and actions of a whole section of Americans, and in its scholarly, but unflaggingly interesting presentation. In its essentials it does for the south what Mr. Brooks has done for New England.

Van Wyck Brooks interprets New England thru the lives and works of her great literary men because the expression of thought was New England's natural flowering. Mr. Cash interprets the south thru its traditions of living, since the way of life of a southerner has had more influence on what he thinks than what he thinks has influenced his way of life.

Mr. Cash has written a fascinating book, so delicately interlaced in its logic as to make a pattern which no reader can forget, so intriguing in its style that the reader can't, even if he would like to, skip from page to page. It is too intriguing to be read with even normal rapidity. One stops again and again to reread, to think, to say "Exactly!"

Mr. Cash combines the completely detached use of materials as solemnly and as scholarly as a clinical record with a style as informal as the talk of a man buttonholing you on the

street. "The Mind of the South" is one of the year's most important books—and of its most interesting.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

John H. Young
Heads History
Project At Fisk

Account of Negroes of Tennessee to be Written This Year
FEB 7 1941

William McDaniels, state director of the Tennessee Writers Project, announces the appointment of John H. Young as head of the newly-created Negro division of the writers project. The Negro Division will have as a special assignment, the writing of a History of the Negro in Tennessee.

The History project, "The Negro in Tennessee," is sponsored by Fisk University. Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Head of the Department of Social Science, will act as Chief consultant and advisor. The project is located in the Social Science building.

Mr. Young is a graduate of Morehouse College. While at Morehouse he participated for four years in Varsity Debating, Dramatics, and Athletics. He was an All-American and All-Southern end in football in 1934 and '35.

A leader of many student organizations he was also founder of the John Hope Student's Memorial Service and delivered the first eulogy on the occasion of Dr. Hope's death. This Memorial Service is now an annual event of the Atlanta University system.

Upon graduation Mr. Young played a season of professional football with the New York Brown Bombers, coached by Fritz Pollard. Following this he was for two years, Instructor of History and Director of Athletics at Jackson College in Mississippi. Prior to the present appointment he was line coach of football at Fisk University.

Mr. Young studied history under Drs. W. E. B. DuBois and Rayford W. Logan and Creative writing under William Stanley Braithwaite, noted anthologist.

With the Project he will supervise a staff of research workers over the State and will write the first

draft of the history which will be published in book form.
He is a former member of the five-man Grand Board of Directors of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Survey Shows Economic Background To Thought Processes

FEB 9 - 1941

FEB 9 - 1941

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH. By W. J. Cash. Knopf. \$3.75.

Is the South still solid, or are we dividing by classes in our thought and politics? Industry seems well on the way to take over cotton's plantation empire, but is there any way for us to avoid what usually goes with an industrial revolution, namely the conscious struggle between employers and employed, capital and labor? Are there elements in the South's makeup which threaten to make the struggle more bitter than it has been elsewhere? Are we averse to facing such questions?

A Southern characteristic is to be willing to discuss around our firesides, or at the dinner table after the cook has cleared away, subjects which we hesitate to debate openly lest we seem disloyal, and which we resent newspapers hauling into view. Our sunny South has a dark back alley, and with a human desire to avoid sordid things, many of us try to ignore back alleys. One reason is that Yankees have always overemphasized that back alley, tried once to make it a boulevard. And anything the Yankee does rubs us the wrong way.

But increasingly now, Southerners themselves have been exploring our back alley, as well as our Main Street and our country lanes. They are writing books which neither distort nor ignore our touchier spots. The depression brought a good many of us down to earth, and we are beginning to analyze ourselves, cutting through our legends, wondering what's going to come of us.

Mr. Cash is a Southerner. He may also be labeled a Jeffersonian Democrat, a proLabor New Dealer and a scholar shouting from the window of his ivory tower. He happens to be a North Carolina newspaper man and his book shows that he is more familiar with the Virginia, Carolina, Georgia sector than with the Delta, Louisiana and Texas areas, though his analysis embraces all parts.

Romanticism Rampant

He sees us this way: we have been proud, brave, honorable by our lights (more so yesterday than today), courteous, generous, loyal, swift, often too swift, but signally effective in action. We have also been intolerant, he says, violent (four times as violent as other sections), suspicious toward new ideas, emotional rather than rational, attached more to sweet fictions than to facts. He supports this charge by tracing us through boom and panic, war and peace, hope and despair, five cent cotton and forty cent cotton, five dollar pints and fifty cent pints.

He has read and studied what our other analyzers and historians have said, from old Hinton Helper, D. R. Hundley, Rupert Vance and G. W. Dyer to our exquisite Nashville Fugitive-Agrarians, painstaking Howard Odum, aggressive Frank Graham and the genial

Danielses.

He interprets the South as a frontier in three sequences: That of the land in its first settling and rich rewards; next, the frontier of the predatory Yankee, when the Republican Party and its tariff gang used the Civil War and slavery as an excuse for Polanding the South; and finally the frontier of machine industry and the aping of hard Yankee business methods.

The mind of the South changed with these frontiers; first it built the legend of the Old South, a legend which nobody nourished more than glamor-starved Yankees; a legend which except in Virginia was based almost entirely on the new-rich nobodies become Cotton Snobs, who set themselves up as gentlemen with such grace as they could manage, took on a veneer of aristocracy, went in for flattering genealogies to bolster their claims to gentility, and developed company manners. These manners, be it said, were genuinely better than those of any other section, and have largely remained so even today, though the decay is all too apparent. It is hardly fair however, to overlook the effect of movies, tourist travel, the radio and other nationwide influences in undermining Southern manners and morals. Mr. Cash is inclined to blame economic selfishness for the decline, but these other factors undoubtedly played a part.

Mr. Cash's psychological analysis of the growth of this legend of the gentle Old South is masterly. His readers will recognize the myth as it survives today for commercial and social purposes.

A Region's Split Personality

Another theme which is woven into the book is that Southernism of New England! ethical nature has always been Mr. Cash's book is addressed to two-sided. On the front and public cultivated audience. He is for the side we have been fundamentalist down-trodden, but his book is not, and evangelical in religion, puritan. He laments the fact that though tanical in sexual morals, and great the South now has the best intellectuals of honor in public and actual leadership it ever has had, business life. Privately, Cash says and a more literate public, there is we have been characteristically little co-operation between those in-lovers of pleasure and violence, intellectuals and our business and po- This split personality is not un-

common in individuals, since it is Cash is a young man, a little often the man who talks loudest of heady with impulsive generaliza-virtue who practices it least. Thustions and fine words like "proto-it is not strange that we publicly Dorian," a little tainted by the pre-place Southern Womanhood on acious logic of nice distinctions, and high pedestal yet privately move occasional excesses of criticism—as

our redlight diversions to the best hotels, and that while publicly we proclaim Christianity, privately we exploit the poor. And this is not the first writer to publish the fact that church-going is often not so much worship as an effort to conform socially, even to build good business contacts.

Today, when we read what is happening in France or Poland or Holland, how often do we realize that our very South was the scene of very similar, sometimes greater injustice and suffering in the 1860's and 70's? The time of Reconstruction finished the ruin of the Civil War in the South, brought most of the trouble that still afflict the South, may be said worse. Leveling planter, white, and negro in some cases the same low economic plan fostered a bitter violent fight for supremacy and survival. The chief casualties was the archaic feeling of responsibility on the part of the ruling class, the welfare of poor white and negro. In order to survive, the planter had to forget his business, had to set up a tenant and extract a profit from tenants and customers, or might be caught into the same beggary that had caught the man with small resources. And when some measure of ease for the planter had been won, the habit had been of being his poorer brother's keeper.

Progress and Poverty

Inevitably, though it took decades, the poor white lost his trust in his captains, grew into bitter hatred for his cheaper-living competitor, the negro, and was headed for a revolt of despair. To avert that contingency, his captains were inspired in the 1880's to build mills, not at first to make profits, but to save society from utterly disintegrating. Thus out of despair Cash says, began Progress, the dream of a New South, a materialist dream which has brought, as in other parts of the country, Chambers of Commerce, proud but inappropriate skyscrapers, newspapers appealing for more commerce and industry, town and city governments vying in offering inducements for Yankee capital to come in and use our cheap labor. And Southerners might even co-operate with Yankees to keep that labor cheap. What a reversal of the old leisurely, agrarian spirit that abhorred the industrial nature of New England!

when he says that no business men read books. But anyone who wants to think about the South will find his volume stimulating and readable.

New York ~~are~~

New York, N. Y.

"Phylon" Publishing

Autobiography Of

William Braithwaite

FEB 1 1941

ATLANTA, Ga.—In the current issue of "Phylon", the Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture, the editors have begun publication of the life story of Dr. William Stanley Braithwaite, professor of creative literature at Atlanta University and for years an outstanding critic of American letters. The January issue, which comes off the press in a few days, also contains a four-color reproduction of the Talladega Library Murals by Hale Woodruff, noted artist; and contributions by George E. Haynes of the Federal Council of Churches; Alfonso Elder, Dean of North Carolina College for Negroes; Joseph F. Roucek, associate professor of political science at Hofstra College; and Leslie Pinckney Hill, president of Cheyney State Teachers College.

Title of the long-awaited Braithwaite autobiography is "The House Under Arcturus". Of his childish years, when he wore his hair twisted in what was then known as a cuck-a-too the writer recalls "A more Fauntleroyish youngster is inconceivable". At this period above all else, Braithwaite the youngster "wanted to write books like Shakespeare."

Though William Stanley Braithwaite is best known for the 17 annual editions of his Anthology of Magazine Verse and his volumes of poetry, many of the salient features of his life have been developed around his friendship and acquaintance with such outstanding literary personalities as William Dean Howells, Edward Arlington Robinson, Amy Lowell and Conrad Aiken.

Of his father, Dr. Braithwaite writes that he was "a leader of men, but one whose leadership was a futile solvent of his personal achievements. His was a frustrated nature, and his career a checkered path of dispositions. Brilliant of mind, magnificent in

physique, like Robinson's Flammonde, he carried news of nations in his talk, and in his walk with kings accredited." Later on the same subject the author writes "I have sometimes wondered since if in his passion and admiration for the achievements of individuals, father was not tragically aware of the wasting of his own superb abilities and that the sense of his personal failure found its compensation in this hero worship."

There are other chapters in this fascinating tale of a great man's life which will be published in subsequent issues of "Phylon."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Race Art Lauded In New Book

FEB 15 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 13—The artistic crafts and skills of 41 WPA artists are illustrated in "The Negro in Art." This pictorial record of the Negro artist and of the Negro theme in art has just been issued by the Associates of Negro Folk Education with headquarters in this city.

Complete with nearly 400 clear aquatone and full color plates, this publication is recognized by critics as the greatest portfolio of its kind ever produced. Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke, internationally known educator and art authority, is the editor of the portfolio.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois
**BOOK ON LIFE
IN GEORGIA IS
OFF THE PRESS**

JAN 23 1941
WPA Project Writers Of
'Drums And Shadows'
Portray Customs

ATLANTA, Ga. — A first-hand study of customs, rituals and beliefs of the Georgia coastal Negro in and near Savannah is given in "Drums and Shadows," a book produced by the Savannah unit of the Georgia Writers' project of the work projects administration just issued by the University of Georgia press.

Faithful transcriptions of the speech of the 138 Negro subjects interviewed makes this WPA volume of interest to the average reader as well as to sociologists and anthropologists.

It is revealed that many of the quaint practices and beliefs presented in the book have been handed down from father to son, generation after generation, among slaves and descendants of slaves in the tidewater lowlands and coast islands of the state. Conjure practices, religious survivals and tales of slaves from Africa are treated in "Drums and Shadows."

Common beliefs and customs of some twenty Georgia coast and coastal island communities are treated in the WPA book. Among these is the Yamacraw community made famous by the late James Weldon Johnson in his celebrated poem entitled "Go Down Death."

There, "ghosts are everyday experiences. Root doctors are in constant demand." It is pointed out, however, that the old Yamacraw of the tumble-down brick houses and wooden shanties is gone. Today, modern concrete dwellings built under the low-rent program of the United States Housing authority have eliminated the "pic-

turesque" but overcrowded, depressing and unhealthy living conditions among Negro residents of Yamacraw.

Thirty-one photographs by Muriel and Malcolm Bell, Jr., of Savannah, make up a series of striking illustrations in the Georgia Writers' production. The eldest person interviewed, 110-year-old Tony Deleagal, is pictured with work-gnarled hands. A fisherman of Pin Point, a drum-maker of Savannah and an ox-cart at Sapelo are among other subjects of illustration.

African parallels by scholars, missionaries and travelers who have lived among the tribes of West Africa are contained in an appendix covering a period dating from 1700 to the present.

"Drums and Shadows" is the result of extensive research undertaken by WPA workers employed on the Georgia Writers' project.

**Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.**

**To Publish
A Teacher's
Dissertation**

KANSAS CITY, Kas. — (Special) — The American Home Economic association has informed Miss Dolores F. Moore that they wish to publish her scientific paper on "The Present Status of Knowledge about Diet in Pregnancy" in their professional publication the *Journal of Home Economics*. This dissertation was completed prior to her receiving her M.S. degree in nutrition and food chemistry.

The article represents an extensive review of the literature on the subject of "Diet in Pregnancy," accompanied by a critical evolution of the data thus obtained.

New York Age

BOOK REVIEW

SEX AND RACE—J. A. ROGERS,
J. A. Rogers Publications, N.Y.C.
\$3.00.

JAN 18 1941
J. A. Rogers has written this in the hopes that its circulation will broaden the democratic vision of the masses of people by spreading information as to the inter-

mingling of the races throughout the ages.

By research, study and travel the author has brought together under one cover his own findings and those of the leading scientists in their respective fields. To prove his points he uses quotations from the great anthropologists, archaeologists, Egyptologists, historians and philosophers of all times.

He claims that all of his statements, no matter how sensational, are backed by leading authorities.

Mr. Rogers analyzes the characteristics of all nations from the Negroid point of view, taking the facts from leading scientists, to show that no national group can correctly designate itself as one race, for people in those groups have more Negroid blood in their veins than is generally supposed. He goes on to point out the many ways, historically, in which the Negroid strain has become mixed through all the countries and races of the world so that there can truly be no pure stock.

**Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.**

**WORLD
This
Week**

JAN 18 1941
By SAMUEL I. BROOKS

JAN 25 1941
Jane E. ... in a shack but a great building dedicated to the advancement of Negro womanhood now stands in the center of colored Cleveland as a testimonial to her faith, her character and her enterprise. Her book, "A Nickel and a Prayer" tells the thrilling story of what a colored woman with nobility of character and determination can accomplish. By all means read it. And when you go to Cleveland go and see the Phillis Wheatley Association, and the gracious lady who made it possible.

Viscount Cranley startled England and the world last week by sharply criticizing London's air

raid shelters as "appalling," lacking medical equipment, lacking privacy, lacking proper sanitation, etc., with people sleeping tightly packed together regardless of age or sex. As a necessary "reform" he urged segregation of colored and white people! Yes, England is fighting for democracy.

Four Negroes were made priests last week at St. Augustine's Seminary at Bay St. Louis, Miss. This makes 15 Negro priests ordained since 1923 when the school was established, all of them since 1936. Strange that the Catholic church with over 300,000 Negro communicants should have less than a score of Negro priests. It couldn't be race prejudice, of course. That would be un-Christian!

The President couldn't see his way clear to appoint a Negro governor of the Virgin Islands where most of the natives are Negroes. Instead he appointed a New York lawyer, Charles Harwood, who has no more distinguished record than many Negro Democrats. A dark governor might have "embarrassed" the naval officers at St. Thomas.

George Seldes' brilliant fortnightly paper IN FACT for Jan. 13th publishes important information all daily newspapers suppressed but which was a report of one of the greatest scientific discoveries of recent times. According to the late Dr. Raymond Pearl, head biologist of Johns Hopkins University, between the ages of 30 and 60, 61 per cent more heavy smokers die than non-smokers.

Raymond Pearl gave the N. Y. Academy of Medicine the facts in 1938. Most U. S. newspapers "killed" the story. Only a few briefly referred to it. The answer: advertising. Pearl's study shows that "Tobacco smokers do not live as long as non-smokers." "Smoking is associated with definite impairment of longevity. This impairment is proportional to the habitual amount of tobacco usage by smoking, being great for heavy smokers and less for moderate smokers, but even in the latter, sufficient to be measurable and significant."

According to Dr. Pearl, alcohol is far less injurious than tobacco. "Moderate drinking," he says, "does not significantly shorten life when compared with total abstinence from alcohol, while heavy drinking does seriously diminish the length of life." Some 50,000,000 Americans consume 200,000,000,000 cigarettes annually.

Britain's beagles in India last week grabbed Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, president of the All-India Congress and threw him in jail. Mr. Azad and his millions of followers want freedom for India. England is only interested in freedom for England. There are more people who cannot vote under the Union Jack than there are under the Swastika.

Mr. P. J. Charlet, Louisiana Employment Security Administrator, is all worked up because the Panama Canal Administration is importing Negro workers from the West Indies. He wants American workers (presumably white) hired. Some people certainly hate to see Negroes getting along. West Indians built the canal and ought to get work on it.

Elizabeth City, N. C. Advance
January 20, 1941

**Negro Farmers Urged
To Attend Meetings**

All Negro farmers of Pasquotank County are urged to attend one of a series of meetings this week to hear an explanation of the 1941 soil conservation program, E. F. Colson, Negro county agent, said today.

The meetings will be held as follows:

- Moses Temple school, Tuesday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m.
 - Mill Pond school, Wednesday, January 22, 7:30 p.m.
 - Union Chapel school, Thursday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.
 - Kehukee school, Friday, January 24, 3:30 p.m.
- G. W. Falls, county agent, or his assistant will be present at each meeting.

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Heredity and Politics

RACE: SCIENCE AND POLITICS, by Ruth Benedict.
Modern Age Books, \$2.50.

FEB 4 1941

A POPULAR book has long been necessary to give correct perspectives on the Nazi racist theories that have brought tragedy to millions in Europe, and which are now being overtly introduced into this country. The volume under review, by Dr. Ruth Benedict, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University, fulfills this need admirably. It is scholarly without being pedantic; its style is always animated and in parts engrossing. Each chapter is supplemented by decidedly relevant quotations from other authorities which point up the theoretical findings of the author.

FEB 4 1941

Dr. Benedict correctly distinguishes between race and racism. Race is the subject matter for scientific disciplines, the field for studying special problems of genetic relationships of human groups that can be investigated by experts who can arrive at authoritative judgments. She gives a spirited review of the findings of these experts. The chapter headings of this part of the book aptly indicate their interesting content: "Race: What It Is Not"; "Man's Effort to Classify Himself"; "Migration and the Mingling of Peoples"; "What Is Hereditary?"; and "Who Is Superior?"

Racism, on the other hand, is not science but dogma. As the author puts it: "It is essentially a pretentious way of saying that 'I belong to the Best People.'" It is the formula of "I belong to the Elect" used for political ends. As she contends, scientists can disprove, and have disproven, all of the facts upon which this travesty is based and still leave the belief untouched. Her discussion of the historical background of these superiority myths is discerning and is etched with deep human sympathy. She concludes that "Racism is an *ism* to which everyone in the world today is exposed: for or against we must take sides." This book will help many to take the correct side.

FEB 4 1941

KENNETH McDERMOTT.

Christian Recorder

Philadelphia, Pa.

A BOOK REVIEW

LOVEDALE, SOUTH AFRICA

JAN 9 1941

The Story of a Century—1841-1941

By R. H. W. Shephed

500 Pages. Demy 8vo. Over 30 full-

page illustrations. \$2.50.

Lovedale Missionary Institute reaches its centenary in July 1941. It was founded as a mission station in 1824 but began its career as a place of higher education on 21st July, 1841.

Much has been written about Lovedale, but notwithstanding this, few public institutions are less understood. In this fully documented volume a complete account is given of Lovedale's genesis, history, and aims. The two sides to Lovedale's work are fully dealt with—its internal growth from a small missionary seminary to a large Christian educational center, and its growth as an interpreter and mouthpiece of the non-European peoples of South Africa in the face of the country's changing Native policy.

Mr. Shephard undertook the writing of this book at the request of the Lovedale Governing Council. One of its greatest values is that it is fully documented. For every period, from the late 18th Century to the present day, every factual statement is supported by original contemporary documents, and letters. Mr. Shephard has, however, avoided overburdening the text with quotations from old documents just because they are old. Sources are quoted at the foot of each page, however, when they are not given in the text.

This is at once one of the most authoritative and interesting books yet written about missionary work in South Africa. No one interested in the history of Christian missions in South Africa or in the race question can afford to be without a copy of this book. The sole American agents for it, as for all other Lovedale publications, is the International Missionary Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Those Ten Outstanding Books

FEB 24 1941

Nobody needs to argue any more about the ten outstanding books of 1940. The Book of the Month Club has settled the question once and for all, by the democratic method of sending out ballots. Each of 159 leading critics was asked to list his first ten choices, in order of preference. And the results were tabulated (1) on the basis of the number of votes received by each book, and (2) on the basis of preference points, with ten allowed for a first choice, nine for a second, and so on down the list. Now that the results are published, we can at last be certain that "For Whom the Bell Tolls" was the outstandingest book of the year. We can also be certain that it outstood "New England: Indian Summer" on the ratio of 124 votes to 92 (or 1,013 points to 614). "Oliver Wiswell" (71-444) outstood "How Green Was My Valley" (59-415), which outstood "Native Son" (57-363), which outstood "As I Remember Him" (50-298), which outstood "You Can't Go Home Again" (44-269), which outstood "Audubon's America" (40-219), which outstood "Sapphira and the Slave Girl" (31-181), which outstood. . . . But here, when we reach the tenth place, an element of doubt creeps into the situation. Did "Mrs. Miniver" (31-128) outstand "Pilgrim's Way" (26-165), or was it the other way around? We hope that the Book of the Month club will settle this controversy too, by sending out another ballot.

FEB 24 1941

But lest all conversation about books should die away in the click of adding machines, we might ask a few questions. Who selected the 159 leading critics? Did any of them read all the good books of the year? Did all of them read all the books they voted for? And finally, what is an outstanding book anyway?

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

BEST BOOKS OF 1940 CHOSEN IN A POLL

'For Whom the Bell Tolls,' by Hemingway, Put First by Critics of the Nation

FEB 10 1941

BROOKS VOLUME IS SECOND

'Oliver Wiswell,' by Roberts, and 'How Green Was My Valley,' by Llewellyn, Next

The "ten outstanding books of 1940," as determined in a nationwide poll of 159 literary critics by the Book-of-the-Month Club, were announced yesterday by Dr. Henry Seidel Canby, chairman of the club's editorial committee.

To obtain the greatest possible accuracy the selections were made in two ways—on the number of votes cast for each book and also on a point basis, with ten points for a first choice, nine for a second down to one point for a tenth choice. The two methods gave the same results for the first nine books.

"Mrs. Miniver," by Jan Struther was the tenth choice with thirty-one votes by the critics, but on the point basis, "Pilgrim's Way," by John Buchan was tenth with 165 points to 128 for "Mrs. Miniver."

The results of the poll follow:

1. "For Whom the Bell Tolls," by Ernest Hemingway (Scribner's), 124 votes, 1,013 points.
2. "New England: Indian Summer," by Van Wyck Brooks (Dutton), 92 votes, 614 points.
3. "Oliver Wiswell," by Kenneth Roberts (Doubleday, Doran), 71 votes, 444 points.
4. "How Green Was My Valley," by Richard Llewellyn (Macmillan), 59 votes, 415 points.
5. "Native Son," by Richard Wright (Harper), 57 votes, 363 points.
6. "As I Remember Him," by Hans Zinsser (Little, Brown), 50 votes, 298 points.
7. "You Can't Go Home Again," by Thomas Wolfe (Harper), 44 votes, 269 points.
8. "Audubon's America," edited by Donald Culross Peattie (Houghton Mifflin), 40 votes, 219 points.
9. "Sapphira and the Slave Girl," by Willa Cather (Knopf), 31 votes, 181 points.
10. "Mrs. Miniver," by Jan Struther (Harcourt, Brace), 31 votes, 128 points.

"Sharecroppers All" Survey Of Life In The Deep South

FEB 1 1941

ATLANTA, Ga. — "Sharecroppers All," a comprehensive study of economic and social conditions of the South, is recently off the press at Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina Press). The authors, Arthur Raper and Ira De A. Reid, are well known sociologists. The former is research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and author of "The Tragedy of Lynching," "Preface to Peasantry," and "Race and Class Pressures."

The latter has been a member of the faculty at Atlanta University since 1934. He is the author of "The Urban Negro Worker in the United States," "The Negro Immigrant," and "In a Minor Key." Both of the authors are Southerners, and are keenly aware of conditions in this section of the country. Dr. Raper is particularly concerned with the rural phases of Southern life, while Dr. Reid's concentration is in the urban areas.

According to the authors, the sharecropper system has reached far beyond the cotton plantation. In the introduction they include many non-farm workers in the term sharecropper "because most Southern communities are essentially feudalistic." In their opinion the company store of the mill village is not unlike the commissary, and the factory supervisor not unlike the plantation overseer. But even here they bring out that the parallel does not stop with the factory town or the South, for the significance is national—"for only a little less dependent and insecure than the South's landless farmers are chain-store clerks, salesmen, insurance agents, taxi drivers, and filling station operators."

The reader is told if he would have the real meaning of the term sharecropper he should look to matters of low wages, insecurity, and lack of opportunity for self-direction and responsible participation in community affairs.

BOOK REVIEW

Synopsis and Criticism

New Book on Underground Railroad

THE latest publisher to find the "underground railroad" subject of universal interest is Harper Bros., who are honoring Negro History Week by releasing "Let My People Go!" in February. Written by Henrietta Buckmaster, the book represents four years of intense research work as well as extensive travelling along the underground railroad routes to interview persons related to "conductors" and slaves who made the perilous trip to freedom. *The Call*

Miss Buckmaster, who is a well-known magazine writer and also the author of two novels, "Tomorrow Is Another Day" and "His End Was His Beginning," happened across the subject of her most recent book quite by accident. She read a biography of Harriet Tubman and was so impressed with the courage and nobility of this amazing fugitive slave woman who rescued over 300 slaves at the risk of her own life that she was determined to make a further study of her. *Kansas City Mo.*

"I had absolutely no idea how that one book would change my plans," said Miss Buckmaster. "I was then doing work for the Reader's Digest and as I read I was so irresistibly drawn to know more about the subject that I stopped everything else and devoted myself utterly to it."

"I learned a phase of our American history that is totally ignored, and as I went deeper and deeper into the research a picture of the South began to emerge based on court records, southern newspapers, letters, testimony of slave-owners, documents, and it was amazing how all this bore utterly no relation to the South we are taught to accept, the

South of Stephen Foster, of Moonlight and Roses.

"I was hungry for more material on the subject, but I discovered that nothing new had been printed since 1866 until this children's book on Harriet Tubman, 'The Railroad to Freedom.' My interest had been so stirred by these revelations that it drove me to some full-time investigations. As I studied the records it occurred to me how little Americans actually know about one of the most dramatic periods of our history." *The Call*

Now, after four years of intensive research during which time she travelled about extensively to interview persons and descendants of those involved in abolition work, and in which her Negro friends students who have specialized in this period, have been of inestimable help, Miss Buckmaster has finally written her book. During these four years

she has read well over 500 books, newspapers as well as private documents, and has lost count of the private papers, the letters and pamphlets which she has studied. *The Call*

"Let My People Go!" is the first book on this and related subjects, Miss Buckmaster stated. By Thelma Nurenborg.

Kansas City, Call
Kansas City, Mo.

BOOK REVIEW

Synopsis and Criticism

Growing Up in the Black Belt

This is a review or digest of Growing Up in the Black Belt, a study prepared for the American Youth Commission by Dr. Charles S. Johnson, head of the department of social science at Fisk university. It is published by the American Council on Education.

East to the Carolinas, west to Texas; south to Florida, north to Virginia. This is the Black Belt. This is the plantation country, the Old South. Here on farms and in small settlements live almost half of the Negro families in the United States. In these cities live another 30 percent. This is truly the Black Belt, the home of almost 80 percent of American Negro families.

Here is almost unbelievable poverty, and a bi-racial system that borders on a caste regime. But though Dr. Charles E. Johnson, head of the social science department of Fisk university, notes the existence of this so-called caste system in his study of Negro youth personality development.

GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT is one of a series of studies of Negro youth conducted concurrently in different sections of the United States by the American Youth Commission of which Owen D. Young is chairman and Floyd W. Reeves is director. Already published are Negro Youth at the Crossways, the study of Negro youth in the Border States, and Children of Bondage, the youth of the urban South.

GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT concerns itself with the Negro youth of the rural South, and since youth, under the age of 25, make up half of the Negro population of the Black Belt, the problems of the race are necessarily the problems of youth. *FEB 7 1941*

Studied 2,000 Youth

Dr. Johnson studied 2,000 Ne-

gro youth in eight counties selected as typical of the area. His interviewers also visited and talked with the families of 916 of the youth. From these extensive reports developed some excellent measurements of personality development, but it is the generous reproduction of the youth's statements that makes Growing Up in the Black Belt first of all a document of human interest.

One of the most vital indices of Negro family organization and culture advancement is the change in the sex mores which has occurred since slavery, Dr. Johnson finds. "The rural Negro family as a carrier of the social tradition has been under the handicap of imperfect organization and has had no real opportunity for the full development of rigid sex regulations in terms of the dominant American culture. This deficiency is more a matter of culture than of race, for the African cultures from which the ancestors of these young Negroes came have well-defined and rigidly enforced sex controls, but the American cultures were shattered by the impact of the New World conditions of life . . . in general, sex attitudes of rural Negro youth and those of white youth seem rapidly to approach each other. In the Negro group there has been a large increase in the rigidity of sex standards with some increase in the restraints on actual sex experience, while at the same time in the white group, there has been a relaxing to some extent of the restraints in sex experience," he says.

The houses in which rural Negro youth live are, with few exceptions, dismally inadequate. Their schools, which have the support of the state, are scarcely better. In a nation which each year spends \$99.70 on each pupil the Southern Negro child, on an aver-

age, receives only \$23.00 of educational money. In Alabama during 1937-38 each white pupil had \$49.37 spent on his education; each Negro pupil only \$14.75. When expenditures for new grounds, buildings and equipment are compared, the inequality is more striking. For each pupil in average daily attendance the capital outlay was \$2.95; for each Negro pupil it was 58 cents.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

New Orleans at War

BY THE DIM LAMPS. By Nathan Schachner. 578 pp. New York: Random House Company. MAR 2 - 1941

THIS is a moderately successful attempt by a distinguished historian and biographer to do for Louisiana, especially the New Orleans area, what Margaret Mitchell did for the Atlanta district in "Gone With the Wind." It is an excellent example of how much can be done in fiction with research as the basis, but it lacks two of the quantities that made Miss Mitchell's record-breaker the most popular novel of modern times—its rousing narrative quality and the sharpness of its characterization.

In his "Aaron Burr," which is one of the best of all the biographies of that curiously exciting figure, Mr. Schachner managed to give us an exceedingly lifelike portrait by the accumulation of detail. But the novelist's touch must be different from that of the biographer, or the historian; he must show rather than tell, when it comes to a question of creating character, and it is at this point that Mr. Schachner misses.

Intrinsically, Mr. Schachner's material is every bit as interesting, perhaps even more so, than Miss Mitchell's. New Orleans has always been sui generis as a city, and its behavior during Reconstruction especially was quite different from the behavior of other Southern cities. The presence of free people of color and of large foreign elements made a difference and, besides, General Butler, the spoon-stealer, still referred to in the Louisiana metropolis as "Beast" Butler, and Henry Clay Warmoth were not run-of-the-mine characters in the ante-bellum drama; Butler was much worse than most of the Federal Army officers sent into the South, and Warmoth, as Mr. Schachner indicates plainly, was a far more complex person than most of the carpetbag officials, who in general were simply out for what they could steal. There were honest men among them, it is true, but they were a small minority.

The story itself concerns a young man named Hugh Flint, not of the aristocracy, who is in business with his father when the book opens. A Princeton graduate, Flint is a born moderate. He joins the Army, but New Orleans, virtually undefended, fell into Federal hands before he could see service. He is in love with Sally Wailes, the daughter of a rich sugar planter and the epitome of proud Southern womanhood, but their differences of point of view keep them apart until Sally has married a neighbor, Andy Hilgard, who typifies the vices and virtues of his class, a brave and reckless—and feckless—young man who has fathered mulatto children far and near. Flint takes over Hilgard's plantation to save it from the invading Northerners while Hilgard is away fighting; eventually Sally has a child by Hilgard, who returns from the war as much of a wastrel as ever, and becomes one of the leaders of the Knights of the White Camellia, the Ku Klux Klan of the vicinity.

Jessie Tait, a Northern woman who has fled to New Orleans to get away from her goatish and religious husband, falls in love with Flint; she is really the Scarlett O'Hara of Mr. Schachner's book. But Flint remains true to Sally, and after they have been kept apart for 578 pages, Hilgard is disposed of by being shot in the famous Battle of New Orleans (Longstreet, late general in the C. S. A., who was late coming up at Gettysburg, commanded the Federal troops, it may be remembered) and the curtain descends upon a happy family group consisting of Flint, Sally, Hilgard's daughter, and Flint's newborn son. The ending, it may be guessed without much effort, is therefore entirely conventional, and the tableau one of the most familiar known to fiction.

Thus, while "By the Dim Lamps" is not a notable novel, and is not helped by a style which at best lacks distinction, it is a readable book and may well serve to acquaint many people with the New Orleans aspect of the War Between the States and the Reconstruction Period, which was marked here, as in many other

places, by frequent bloodshed. Actually, Reconstruction was little more than a continuation of the war itself, except that the South won the second time. Through Hugh Flint, Mr. Schachner speaks out for moderation and common sense, which need all the kind words they can get now, as in all other times, but he is not trying to preach, and his picture is a notably fair and balanced one, accurate and complete.

There are many exciting episodes in the story, and excellent descriptions of New Orleans and of the up-river plantations in the sugar country. In fact, the whole background is done with the greatest care and thoroughness.

HERSCHEL BRICKELL.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.
Wall Street Buccaneer

THE GOLDEN TOUCH. By Stephen Longstreet. 317 pp. New York: Random House. \$2.50. MAR 2 - 1941

MOST of our contemporary Jay Goulds and Jim Fisks, manipulators of pools, shady stock promoters, big-game hunters of the Wall Street breed whose traps yielded fine pelts through the Indian Summer of the roaring Twenties, tightened their belts in the succeeding decade and sadly tested the sharp edges of their skinning knives now so rarely in use. Mike Seabrook, the Street's boy wonder of post-World War boom years, was an exception; his sensitivity to barometric pressure in the market had warned him of Depression's icy blasts and he was prepared. Moreover, being omnivorous, he could batten equally on the fare of bear or bull. A "clever" strategem had given him control of one of New York's oldest and most respected brokerage houses, which faced the choice of bankruptcy or admitting him to partnership. The firm survived as Ott, Seabrook & Owen, and Wall Street investors soon discovered that the new partner believed in service. He showed them how they could cut their income taxes in half by transferring funds to his dummy companies scattered in foreign countries; sometimes he saved them the annoyance of paying any tax

at all to "that man."

A tall, powerfully built farm boy from up-State, Mike had come down to the metropolis and made good in a big way. Rich and a generous spender, he made a host of friends. There was, for instance, Judge Fowler, who could always be depended on to steer him through tortuous legal channels for a cut in the voyage's profits, and Philip Mountjoy, expert in the technique of persuasive stock prospectuses. Where Mike conceived his last great coup on the eve of World War II, the Air America holding company scheme, Mountjoy's eloquence had free rein.

MAR 2 - 1941

Here is our old friend the novel with a Wall Street buccaneer hero, and it must be granted that Mr. Longstreet, while evidently not an admirer of his central character, has endowed him with sufficient complexity of motive and the modicum of conscience and sportsmanship to make him an interesting study for the reader. With his ruthless lust for power uncurbed by moral scruple, his reputation of a man of many amorous adventures, and his utter selfishness, it is, however, difficult to grant the author's attribution of even the slightest compunction Mike exhibits over his David-Beersheba affair with his partner's wife. And Leda Owen's occasional displays of abnegation and remorse, in view of her mercenary marriage, rouse doubts in the reader that such sentiments would ever enter the mind of a woman of her calculating nature.

If one can feel little sympathy for Mike and Leda in their romance, which one suspects to be hardly above the level of a powerful sex attraction, one is the more inclined to render that tribute to several of the lesser figures in the tale—to the lonely little grain dealer, Joel Suleiman, who puzzles over the desperate plight of farmers in our present economy, to old Marryat, the margin clerk, who typifies the sterling qualities of the little man, and pity for Tom Ten Eyck, the customer's man whom Mike uses as his front in a dubious promotion scheme.

The author writes with the same driving vitality that marked his style in "Decade"; but Mike is no such compelling figure as John Christian Rowlandson, the Old One, and, though vivid scenes and sharply edged characters develop in a well-constructed plot, this book will not add to Mr. Longstreet's stature. D. de K.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel

March 10, 1941

"A Traipsin' Heart"

Mildred Martin Hill is the author of an autographed limited edition book of poems entitled "A Traipsin' Heart," to be published on April 15 by Wendell Malliet and Company, New York.

Now the interesting feature of this announcement is not merely the fact that Mildred Martin Hill is a former resident of Winston-Salem, or that she is a member of the Negro race.

Even this probably is not the most important point. The principal matter of note is that Mildred Martin Hill is possibly destined to become one of the finest poets the colored race in North Carolina has produced. Which is, of course, saying a great deal.

The Negro poetess brought to us a few years ago several of her poems for criticism and publication. The writer was astonished at the originality, freshness, warmth and vitality of the collection. Here was a different approach, a different technique. Yet here also was rhythm, rhyme, cadence, penetrating thought and compelling emotional power. Here was a worth while contribution to the literature of America.

We're glad that Mildred Martin Hill, alumna of Winston-Salem Teachers College and now a teacher in Durham, is still writing poetry. We're glad that she is being published. For this Negro girl who worked her way through school and three institutions of higher education, Winston-Salem Teachers, Howard University, and Shaw University, by serving as elevator operator, drug store clerk, checker, waitress, maid, cook, nurse, really has the gift to translate the emotions of her people to America.

8-1941

News
Birmingham, Ala.

'Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire, Out Today



MUMBO JUMBO, ESQUIRE—James Saxon Childers (above), professor of creative writing at Birmingham-Southern College and literary editor and feature writer of The Birmingham News, is author of D. Appleton-Century Company's newest travel book, "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire—A Book About the Two Africas." Mr. Childers is shown in his office at The Birmingham News where much of "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire," was written. Over his typewriter hangs Louise Robins' painting, "Zulu With Piccanin," which appears on the book's jacket.

Childers Writes A Thrilling Story Of Two Africas

"Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire"

twelfth book written by James Saxon Childers, of Birmingham—appeared in the Birmingham book stores and throughout the United States Friday.

Listed by advance notices as one of his best books, "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire" shows the two Africas—modern and primitive—which Chil-

ders explored in his trip to the giant continent in 1939.

Brilliantly jacketed in a color reproduction of Louise W. Robins' "Zulu With Piccanin," the volume is illustrated with 118 pictures of the two Africas which "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire" describes. The book is published by D. Appleton-Century Company.

As literary editor and feature writer of The Birmingham News, Mr. Childers published feature articles in The News on phases of his African trip. But "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire" is a completely new and different work—a book rather than a compilation of articles, a thorough and interesting study of the paradoxical continent.

The book comes off the presses at the opportune moment from the point of view of world interest. Mr. Childers was one of the last travelers to leave Africa before it was closed to outsiders, and with journalistic accuracy and vividness, he shows the complexity of the African civilizations and the part they will play in the World War game.

From the Emperor Napoleon at St. Helena to the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings, Mr. Childers takes his readers—up and down the length of the sprawling, mysterious continent. A flight over forbidden territory, an inside view of the torture rites at Durban, a safari and big game hunt—with reportorial ingenuity he gains entrance to places and happenings not open to the ordinary traveler.

Professor of English and creative writing at Birmingham-Southern College, author, traveler and newspaper man, Mr. Childers was born in Birmingham and is a graduate of Oberlin College and of Oxford University where he was a Rhodes scholar. Widely traveled, he was in the Orient in 1928, and in South America in 1933. This is his fourth book of travel.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

A New Pamphlet on Negro People and War

DEMOCRACY MEANS JOBS FOR NEGROES. A pamphlet by the Communist Party of Philadelphia. Price 2 cents. 14 pp.

By Ben Davis

Events are showing that one of the imperatives essentials of the day is literature to arm the struggle for Negro rights and to show the inter-connection of this struggle with the necessity to get America out of the war.

The fight against discrimination by the "defense" set-up is gathering friends and supporters the real allies of the Negro people throughout the country, primarily in order that job-discrimination because this fight is being led by can really be broken down, and not the Negro people in unity with la-merely talked about, and in order bor and progressive forces, through that our total entry into war may the National Negro Congress. But be forestalled.

On the question of job-discrimination the National Negro Congress, both nationally and through find it "fashionable" to do so—it state councils, has published several gives them the protective coloration valuable pamphlets. Henry Winston, Negro member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, and Claudia Jones, Young Negro Communist leader, have both authored splendid pamphlets discussing this question, its relation to the war. Their works have brought home the necessity of the Negro people thinking seriously about a new Socialist order and joining with the working class to forever do away with the capitalist system of lynching and exploitation.

Others like Marshall Field, the PM owner and big capitalist, would like to intervene in this fight in order to direct it in support of the Administration, and thus ultimately to behead it. Primarily, their minds are centered upon how to win the Negroes for the imperialist war program for they practice discrimination in their own establishments. Still another group like A. Phillip Randolph, and Frank R. Crosswaith, red-baiting Negro Social Democrats, Walter White and Eugene Kinckle Jones, reformists, use the right against Negro discrimination to win their own people for a war which means continued misery and oppression and lynching under the capitalist system. These Negro leaders are spokesmen for an anti-Negro program among their people.

Pictures Job Discrimination
Another valuable addition to the list of Communist tracts is the one just published by the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania. This 14-page pamphlet entitled "Democracy Means: Jobs for Negroes," gives a graphic picture of the job discrimination practiced by "defense" employers. It provides many vivid examples of the discrimination, makes an unanswerable case against it, and brings in the role of the Communist Party as the real leader of the fight for Negro rights, peace and Socialism. It will be of inestimable assistance in bringing about Negro and white unity for jobs.

Allies of the Negro People

Among these various groupings, it is necessary to draw a line between the chaff and the wheat—between the interests of the Negro people as a whole, and the narrow class interests of the capitalist war-makers who do not stop even at using Negro stooges to betray the Negro people. It is necessary to know

On the basic question, of relating the fight for jobs to the war

Book Review

MAY 24 1941

By A. M. WENDELL MALLIET

Perhaps the primary role of the great Negro artists in America today is the breaking down of the barriers of race prejudice and creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding, good will and respect. If this role is not being played by all great Negro artists, it is, without doubt, the achievement, second only to the consummate excellence of her art, of Marian Anderson. Here we review a timely book, "Marian Anderson: A Portrait," by Kosti Vehanen, 280 pp. New York: Whittlesey House. \$2.50. Mr. Vehanen, has been Miss Anderson's accompanist for ten years.

Mr. Vehanen's portrait of the great singer is a friendly and interesting account of the development of Marian Anderson, from her days of struggle in the United States, during her triumphant tour of Europe and several South American countries, to her return to her native land and her crowning achievement in the nation's capital Easter Sunday, 1939, when more than 75,000 persons of both races turned out to hear her sing at the Lincoln Memorial. Her American triumphs also include two appearances at the White House, once as the artist at an informal White House affair and finally when she appeared with other artists at a recital before King George and Queen Elizabeth in June, 1939, at a function of state.

Miss Anderson's development has touched every phase of her life, according to Vehanen, who tells of her growing fondness for finer clothes, brilliant jewels, and a large musical education with its sparkling influences on her personality. He tells of Miss Anderson's studies under such internationally known artists as Mme. Charles Cahir, Mme. Germaine de Castro, and others.

Probably, the author of Marian Anderson: A Portrait, will be accused of being a hero worshipper, but if that be true, it should also be admitted that he is a man with gratitude in his heart. In closing his story, which he says was written without notes and from the memories of his subject and himself, he says: "And when the curtain falls after this colorful time, I feel thankful and rich, rich through many experiences and thankful, most of all, to Marian Anderson."

According to Mr. Vehanen's account, Miss Anderson was the discovery of Helmer Enwall of Stockholm and himself. He and Dr. Rasmussen, a Norwegian manager, made the trip to Berlin and eventually arranged for Miss Anderson's trip and concert tour of the Scandinavian countries, the U. S. S. R. and other European cities.

It was not long after Miss Anderson's arrival in Helsinki, Finland that Vehanen discovered the richness and power of the Negro artist's voice. He says: "My first rehearsal with Miss Anderson was in my home in Helsinki. Here, for the first time, I heard her sing songs other than Negro spirituals; I began to play very softly, as though trying to get the pulse of the singer. Then she sang the first tone.

"From where does this tone come? I thought. It was as though the room had begun to vibrate, as though the sound came from under the earth. I could not find the direction of the tone, but it seemed to me that the very atmosphere was charged with beauty. . . . It made me think of an exquisite flower that stands alone in a deep forest, where no human being has ever trod, the roots drinking the aged nectar from the soil, rich with every substance that sun, rain and fire can create. Such a flower blooms with superb loveliness, with a most delicate perfume, trembling with a tenderness never before felt. So the sound I heard swelled to majestic power, the flower opened its petals to full brilliance; and I was enthralled by one of nature's rare wonders."

Marian Anderson as shown in Vehanen's Portrait is a woman of "deep, sincere and simple religious feeling," which, no doubt, explains her excellent renditions of Schubert's "Ave Maria" and the Spiritual "Crucifixion." She is also shown as a very human, understanding and considerate person, whose calmness and patience under the most trying circumstances lifted her to triumph over the narrow prejudices and crass ignorance of many of her countrymen.

The section of the book devoted to Finland and the other Scandinavian countries make interesting reading, approached only by Mr.

Vehanen's description of Miss Anderson's brilliant triumph at the Paris Opera. He says: "But the miracle revealed at the Paris Opera was not only in the outer appearance but also in Miss Anderson's art. It was no longer merely wonderful singing but real creation. She understood the deepest meaning of the words and delivered them in such a way that everyone could grasp their significance. The reading of the poetry was perfect, and the languages were without accent. . . . When the director of the Paris Opera, in evening clothes and high hat, greeted Miss Anderson during the intermission, he assured her that her diction was worthy of the finest traditions of the French language at L'Opera."

In Russia, the journey and recitals while interesting, place Miss Anderson and Vehanen in a strange country and a study atmosphere; but here she met the great Stanislavsky, who invited her to study "Carmen" under his guidance. In Finland, she was honored by an invitation from the master, Sibelius, and at Salzburg she met Arturo Toscanini, who said: "What I heard today one is privileged to hear only once in a hundred years;" and Lotte Lehman, Bruno Walter and other great personages in the field of music.

It is unfortunate that during her travels abroad, the coldest receptions were tendered to Miss Anderson in London, and that seldom was she ever accorded the respect and honor of an American diplomat by being invited as a guest of a legation or embassy. If democracy is saved from the cold heels of the Huns, this sorry behavior of the Anglo-Saxons may undergo serious change. But the United States and Nazi Germany have been linked by the author as the only two countries where race prejudice played against Miss Anderson.

Much more could be said about this timely book, but let us close with a note of appreciation in behalf of Mr. Vehanen who so courageously attempted and succeeded in breaking down race prejudice against the Negro in the realm of the arts. He went with Miss Anderson in the heart of the deep South and there both white and black played to segregated audiences. This is as it should be. If the race problem is ever to be solved in the United States, it will require the courageous sacrifices of the white and black races. It is a brilliantly written book by a devoted and grateful author on the life of one of the greatest figures of our times.

In the program, the pamphlet is inadequate. Today it is indispensable to

show that not only must Negro workers have "defense" employment, but that their failure to get this employment reveals the character of the program and of the war into which it would plunge us more deeply. Can, for example, the "defense" arrangement be for democracy when in its very process it makes Hitlerism against Negroes worse than ever before?

Even if all job-discrimination were broken down, still the Negro people are faced, along with other Americans, with the prospect of dying in a useless war. The Negroes are still hardest hit by the high cost of living, by war taxes, by horrible slums, by bad health, all of which are direct results of the war program of President Roosevelt. It is in the name of this program that the anti-lynch and anti-poll tax bills are strangled.

By Fighting the War Program

Thus, not only are the Negro people against job-discrimination, but they are against the whole imperialist program of which this discrimination is an inherent part. And the real way to defeat this discrimination, is not by surrendering to the war program, but by fighting it.

This is the joker in the recent statement of the 60 capitalists and their spokesmen in PM. They cannot spout for the war and be for the Negroes at the same time. They are clearly for the war and are worried because the Negroes are not raving over it. They want to agitate the Negro people in a mood of sacrifice, confident that, if they could, the abandonment of every vital right of the Negro would be put aside in the name of the magic word "defense." The same tactic is being used by the Administration through Hillman and the jim-crow AFL leaders like Green.

The pamphlet fails also to take full advantage of the opportunity to explain the treacherous role being played by leaders of the NAACP and the Urban League, dismissing them merely as "too timid" in the fight for Negro rights. The policy of these Social Democrats and reformists is conscious and political and not at all timid. Their danger shouldn't be underestimated. They are persistently and openly trying to win the Negroes to the support of the British-American gang of imperialists, as against the Hitler gang as if both gangs were not contemptuous of the Negro people.

One cannot distinguish these Negro reformists and Social Democrats by their slogans, for they shout from the housetops that they

are against jim-crowism in the army, navy and industry. But they do not hold President Roosevelt responsible for these things, although he is commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the "defense" apparatus. He could with an executive order, wipe out discrimination in the armed forces, and he could certainly withhold the million dollar contracts from the anti-Negro employers. And he should, according to 13th 14th and 15th amendments of the Constitution.

We Want To Be Free

The reasons these Negro leaders do not hold the President responsible, is because they want the Negroes to support his war program—they claim that Negroes are anxious to die on Flanders Field if they only give them equal graves and tombstones. Actually, the Negro people don't want to die at all—just for an empire in which they will be semi-slaves like the white workers, who are not directly jim-crowed, the Negro wants to live free of exploitation and fascist restrictions and capitalist wars for markets and trade.

There is a special duty upon the Communists to show that job discrimination is a phase of the war program, that the Negro people are opposed to the imperialist war, and that the only effective way in which jobs can be won and the increasing lynch terror against Negroes combatted, is through closer unity with the labor and the general population to get out of this war and stay out.

The Communist Party of Philadelphia, as Communists throughout the country, understand this fundamental issue. It is the only political party that does. And in its day to day work, the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania, proves its understanding by winning ever larger sections of the Negro people to militant struggle both against job discrimination and war. The very publication of this new pamphlet is proof of its sensitivity to the needs of the Negro people in these trying days.

8-1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Tells Too Much. Hits Too Hard

MAR 22 1941

Ollie Stewart Tells Why
Henrietta Buckmaster's
Book Will Never Be a
Best Seller

By OLLIE STEWART

I interrupted my reading of "Let My People Go" by Henrietta Buckmaster, last week when the AFRO arrived—but I had read enough to have come to a conclusion before reading the AFRO editorial.

This dramatic story of the underground railroad and the growth of the abolition movement will never be a best-seller—as the AFRO so fervently hopes. It tells too much, it hits too hard.

It will go the way of other books that refuse to compromise. It will be, I feel, the victim of that great conspiracy of silence.

I Meet the Author

I met Miss Buckmaster two weeks ago, at a meeting of the Legion of American Writers. This young white woman is as forthright in speech as she is in prose, but already she realizes that her so magnificent work will never arouse the mass hysteria of a second-rate spell-binder like "Gone with the Wind."

Actually, the way I discovered that Miss Buckmaster was present raise enough hell to split this country wide open, and overthrow the solidly entrenched institution of human slavery as it existed less than a hundred years ago, what couldn't we do now?

We, who have money, education, positions of power and influence, and many more millions on our side. We who have a Constitution and amendments at our backs. We who have thousands of white friends. We who have thousands more who look like white to keep us well informed.

Odds Against Them

With every odd against them, the people who were "conductors" on the underground railroad—which extended from Maine to Iowa and from Alabama to Canada—never admitted defeat. The

fugitives who ran away were caught, beaten, ran away again, were burned and put to death—they wouldn't quit.

They took part in hundreds of insurrections. They kept trying. They won

Miss Buckmaster presents figures to show how completely the power of slavery dominated the nation during the last century. Slave sentiment controlled Congress, the Supreme Court, the Army and the Navy—not to mention the pulpit and general public.

By 1860, 11 out of 16 Presidents of the United States had been slave-holders; 17 out of 28 judges of the Supreme Court, 14 out of 19 Attorney Generals, 21 out of 33 Speakers of the House, and 80 out of 134 foreign ministers had slaves.

They Were Heard

Yet, a few Scotch-Irish and German immigrants, a handful of isolated Jews, and the Quakers began an abolitionist group that "would be heard"—and was heard.

The Quakers in Pennsylvania had the first underground station, but the bulk of the slaves who escaped to freedom went by way of Ohio, the Great Lakes and into Canada. There was no real security south of Canada. Some of the stories related by Miss Buckmaster are doubtless familiar to colored persons who have sat at the feet of grandparents. There is the colorful Levi Coffin, known as the "president of the underground railroad," who was fearless.

And William Cratty, of Central Ohio, who started receiving and hiding and passing slaves in 1836—and continued doing so for 19 years. In all, he is reported to have helped 3,000 slaves to freedom, and for many years went around with a reward, "dead or alive" on his head.

Led 265 to Safety

Slaves and free colored men did their part, too. John Mason of Kentucky refused to stay in

Canada, once he got there. He went back south, time after time, until he had conducted 265 others to safety.

No one rightly knows how many Harriet Tubman helped. She did such inspired work and there was necessarily so much secrecy that many of her exploits along the underground will never be told.

Due credit is given in the book to the magnificent fighting done by colored troops on the Union side in the Civil War. Thousands and thousands of them gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

There Is No Peace

But—as "Let My People Go" so vividly points out—there still is no peace. There have been gains since Emancipation—but no victory.

That is for us, who read these stirring chapters, to accomplish.

New factories are springing up with lily-white employment policies; billions of dollars in additional contracts have been awarded to firms which refuse to employ colored workers.

It has been revealed, recently that the following New York firms have placed requests for "white, Christian help only": Metal Manufacturing Division, Mack Trucking International, Brewster Aeronautical, Sperry Gyroscope, Ford Instrument.

This situation obtains throughout the entire country with only enough exceptions to prove the rule.

McNary Joins Sponsors

The discriminations sought to be officially exposed by S. R. 75 and remedied, are brought sharply to focus by the nation-wide broadcast of the navy, calling for 25,000 pilots. No colored are permitted to enlist in any branch of the navy except as mess attendants.

Senator Charles L. McNary (R., Oregon,) has volunteered to join in sponsoring the resolution and wired the NAACP, March 8 saying: "I wish to associate myself with Senate Resolution 75 and shall exert every reasonable effort for its early consideration."

Time

Chicago, Illinois

Remembrance of Things Past

LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE—William Alexander Percy—Knopf (\$3).

One day last year William Alexander Percy, a slight, short Mississippian with a broad, tall forehead, gave up the management of his 3,000-acre plantation, gave up his 30-year law practice, and settled down to putter, think, remember. Last week Northerners and Southerners could read in *Lanterns on the Levee* just what kind of memories he had. They covered 54 years of an active, sensitive, civilized life. They showed their author to be not only the "poet laureate of Mississippi" and one of the South's bigger planters, but a U. S. aristocrat in the Greek sense of the word.

Percy could remember his French grandmother, Mère, who had to sit day & night strapped in a chair so that she could breathe. "One night [Mère] woke suffocating. Mother said: 'It will be all right, it will pass. . . . But Mère gasped: 'C'est la mort.' Mother leaned to her and whispered: 'Tu n'as pas peur?' Mère steadied herself on the arms of her chair and said distinctly and firmly: 'Non.'"

There was an exalted memory of Percy's father. "Epstein with his heads neurotic, restless, ugly, is the appropriate portraitist of this generation, but . . . Father . . . would have been at home on the west portal of Chartres with those strong ancients, severe and formidable and full of grace, who guard the holy entrance."

There was the instructive memory of the time Percy Sr. ran against Demagogue James K. Vardaman for the U. S. Senate. Vardaman, who looked "like a top-notch medicine man," stood for the poor white

against the "nigger." "He was not a moral idiot of genius like Huey Long; he was merely an exhibitionist playing with fire." When Percy Sr. won, they tried to pin a bribery charge on him. It was quickly disproved, but the man who made the charge went on shouting the lie from every platform in Mississippi. He "was a pert little monster, glib and shameless. . . . The people loved him . . . not because they were deceived in him, but because they understood him thoroughly; they said of him proudly: 'He's a slick little bastard.'" Next time they threw out Percy Sr. "Wal," said an old man, wet with tobacco juice and furtive-eyed, "the bottom rail's on top and it's gwiner stay thar." That was Percy's "first sight of the rise of the masses, but not my last."

When World War I came, Percy got into bed, crammed down quarts of cream and dozens of raw eggs, made enough weight so that he could get into the

A. E. F. He was made a captain, cited for bravery. He got back in time to help his father drive the Ku Klux Klan out of Greenville, Miss., after a two-year fight. That taught him what Nazis were like ten years before most people knew about Nazis.

In 1927 the flood crashed through the Mississippi levees in "a torrent ten feet deep the size of Rhode Island. . . . The south Delta became seventy-five hundred square miles of mill-race in which one hundred and twenty thousand human beings and one hundred thousand animals squirmed and bobbed." In Greenville, the mayor appointed Percy chairman of the flood-relief committee and the local Red Cross. When the Negro Chicago *Defender* stirred up the Negroes against him, Percy went alone into their jam-packed, sullen meeting, talked the mutineers back to their senses.

Then there was the ridiculous memory of Franklin Roosevelt. One hundred and twenty-four Negro sharecropper families lived at Percy's Trail Lake plantation. He shared 50-50 with them "as my grandfather and father had done." One of Dr. Odum's boys at the University of North Carolina had written a thesis on the plantation—*A Social-Economic Analysis of a Mississippi Delta Plantation*—and young Jonathan Daniels had dashed over to Trail Lake when he was discovering the South. Despite individual abuses, Planter Percy believes that "share-cropping is one of the best systems ever devised to give security and a chance for profit to the simple and the unskilled." So he was surprised when the President attacked "the infamous share-cropper system." He was more surprised when he asked a Washington friend where this kind of farming prevailed. The answer: "On Trail Lake."

But the memory that disturbed William Alexander Percy most concerned the three orphaned sons of his cousin, whom he adopted and brought up. He had to try to tell them what to do in a world that was going physically and morally to pieces. "Not the South alone . . . had been killed, but its ideals and its kind of people the world over. The bottom rail was on top not only in Mississippi, but from Los Angeles to New York, from London to Moscow. . . . In Russia, Germany and Italy Demos, having slain its aristocrats and intellectuals and realizing its own incompetence to guide or protect itself, had submitted to tyrants. . . ." Percy asked himself the question that every worried parent asks: "Should I therefore teach deceit, dishonor, ruthlessness, bestial force to the children in order that they survive?" He answered it as most worried parents do: "Better that they perish." For "virtue is an end in itself . . . it is better for men to die than to call evil good. . . ."

He knew that he and all men like him could never be really defeated, because they could never be changed.

Constitution Atlanta, Georgia Tale Tells How Swamp 'Sucker' Trims City 'Slicker.'

THE USURPER, by Harry Harrison Kroll, Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis. 450 pp. \$2.50

MAY 10 1941
Author of many novels best-known among which are "The Cabin in the Cotton", "The Ghost of Slave-Driver's Bend", and "The Keepers of the House," Mr. Kroll has claimed for his literary demesne the Mississippi Delta country. In this latest of his novels he has written a corker. Without the propagandist flavor of so many "proletarian" novels (including those of Mr. Kroll) the present work contains a bit more humor, a bit more sunshine, than is fashionable in regional novels cast in this mold.

It is not clear to me just how much of the reader's sympathy Stan Butterworth, backwoods businessman, is intended to capture, but there is no grave doubt that he will capture a lot of it. He is not built to heroic lines, Stan isn't. Tall and scrawny and forty-ish, he is so stingy that the neighbors call him "snake-eater"; he lives in one room above his store at Barlow Bend, and he drives his old Ford until in one very funny episode it literally gives up its ghost. That seems to set the signal for the redemption of Stan Butterworth.

MAY 10 1941
He has long been regarded by the Cottontown business men as a price sucker, ready for trimming. The ceremony starts when his old love, Lacey McFerrin (who has trimmed him once before) persuades the "snake-eater" to become chairman of the cotton festival committee. But the meeting with Lacey produces unforeseen results. He falls in love with her again, according to program, but his long dead ambition also comes to the surface, and his native shrewdness enables him to resolve the struggle between his love and his ambition to the eventual satisfaction of the latter. Much happens, however, before this solution is reached. Old Stan, of Barlow Bend, becomes Mr. Butterworth, the town banker; he turns the tables on the "city slickers" so completely that the end finds him master of everything the town possesses in the way of loose assets. The "snakes" have (figuratively speaking) gone down his gullet; the "snake-

eater" has lived up to his name. In "The Southern Poor White" Dr. Shields McIlwaine, an eminent authority on southern literature, has paid Mr. Kroll the compliment of stating that he is the only one of the southern regional authors who is sufficiently mature not to compromise with his own conclusions. In the creation of such characters as Stan Butterworth he justifies this comment.

OLE H. LEXAU.
Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Southerner Dares To Write Wholesomely

SWAMP WATER, By Vereen Bell. Little, MAY 11 1941

Commenting on Southern writers, an article that came to the attention of this reviewer last week had this to say, "Led by William Faulkner and Erskine Caldwell, Southerners write with brilliant intensity, but their subject matter runs to horror—sexual, psychological, or economic."

"Swamp Water" is not written with "brilliant intensity," and, while the Okefenokee Swamp is no formal garden spot, Vereen Bell contrives to make it eerie and mysteriously attractive, to make it, alas, no place of "horror—sexual, psychological, or economic." Further it is to be doubted if Vereen Bell in his unenlightened state would not consider the requisite fatherhood of Caldwell and Faulkner a bar sinister. With all these shortcomings, it is necessary to condemn the novel as of no account, possibly even as seditious. Bell, of course, can be no true Southerner.

In mitigation of this pronouncement, it may be said that Vereen Bell is just a young fellow. He may learn. It is strange, though, that he should have been born and raised in Georgia, educated in North Carolina, and still know so little of the "horrors—sexual et cetera" of his section. He admits that for a couple of years he was one of the editors of the American Boy and it takes no very keen reviewer to see remnants of a shameful enthusiasm for the out-of-doors, life in the wilds, and hunting.

It is possible Bell may believe there are people left in the world who would enjoy his simple story of the Georgia boy, become a man, who felt the lure of the big swamp and wanted to take his dog, Trouble, to hunt and fish in it. In the Swamp were gators, panthers, moccasins, deer, wild geese and gaudy wood ducks. In it he also found a nearly-forgotten fugitive, a hog-stealer and killer, from his own community. The story is just about this boy and his life at home, his hunting trips, his homely courting at the all day sing. Of course he does get to feeling some sympathy for the fugitive and there are apt to excite the reader pleasantly but for reasons which are, how unfortunately, more melodramatic than

pornographic. MAY 11 1941
It is strange that, in view of its manifest failings as a good Southern novel, the book should have been allowed to run serially in the Saturday Evening Post and that it has attracted sufficient attention to be purchased for Hollywood prior to publication. Mistakes like that do happen.

JACK HEFLIN,

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

State Of American Farmer Discussed Fully And Expertly

AMERICAN FARMERS IN THE WORLD CRISIS. By C. T. Schmidt. Oxford, MAY 11 1941

Everyone knows there is a farm problem in America, but the nature of that problem in not widely understood. Now, in Dr. Schmidt's study, it is discussed in thorough fashion. Chapters on markets and machines, farmers and politics, agricultural adjustment, credit for the farmer, saving human and soil resources, benefits and burdens of farm relief, cover the ground well.

The author shows that farms operating in 1929 fell about equally into two groups: those producing more than \$1000 worth of products, including goods consumed by the farm family, and those producing less than \$1000 worth. The number of farmers whose individual output exceeded \$2500 constitute only 19 per cent of the total number of farmers, and still 49 per cent produced more than three-fifths of all farm commodities marketed. These, of course, are the chief beneficiaries of governmental aid to agriculture. MAY 11 1941

Many believe consumers have borne heavy burdens from increased prices of farm products because of the farm relief measures of the Government. Dr. Schmidt says that such burdens have not been very heavy; and that many consumers have benefited, especially among the urban unemployed who received free food stuff.

Very interesting is the statement that acreage allotments, commodity loans, and marketing quotas, together with subsidies to farmers, may be considered a counterpart of the semi-monopolistic market controls of urban industry. The agricultural planning that has been introduced in recent years, says the author, goes beyond an attempt to control production and marketing in order to enhance immediate

farm income. Closely linked with this main objective are efforts to conserve our soil resources, to rehabilitate millions of the less fortunate agricultural population, to integrate farm credit facilities, and to attain a number of other ends.

The concluding paragraph in Dr. Schmidt's book is as follows: "One conclusion is forced upon us again and again. Our farm problem is part and parcel of our national problem. We shall have surpluses of goods, surpluses of farmers, cries for public help, so long as the incomes of American families remain on their present level. So long as men and women do not have ade-

quate food and sufficient clothing we shall suffer from the folly in the midst of plenty. Yet, we cannot resign ourselves to accepting this as inevitable. The task before us is to find means for making a wise and humane use of all our resources. It is here that America's agriculture will find its salvation. And here is a task calling for the highest social statesmanship."

There is too much in this book for a brief review to do more than touch the high spots. Those interested would do well to read it.

L. A. NIVEN
Associate Editor
The Progressive Farmer
Elizabeth City N.C. Advance
6-2-41

Dr. Woodson has again brought up to date his authoritative survey of the history of the Negro in the United States, a handy and thoroughly index reference on the subject.

Although the volume offers a brief estimate of various Negro leaders from the earliest days of slavery to the present time, its focus is directed on the trend and sweep of events.

The division of Negro education in North Carolina is singled out for especial praise. The writer points out that "this division (of Negro education) is larger than the whole Department of Education was twenty-five years ago."

"The State," he says, "spends about \$20,000 a year for the support of this office. These men are well trained school men and have gone about the task of improving the Negro rural schools in a business like manner. From the beginning their service and counsel have been sought by school officers of the State and they have had a large share in all of the recent improvements."

Just in case the reader does not link the name of the division with the men who man it, N. C. Newbold, who will speak here Thursday at the finals for the graduating class of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College, is director of the division and President H. L. Trigg served in its administration first as Negro high school inspector and now as head of one of its five State-supported institutions of higher education for Negroes.

8-1941

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

MAR 23 1941



William Alexander Percy.

Photo by Wynn Richards.

The Revealing Memoirs of A Southern Planter

William Alexander Percy's "Lanterns on the Levee" Is
An Uncommonly Good Autobiography

LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE. comfortable person to have around, because he doesn't have to prove his equality with anybody; he knows in his heart that he is *hidalgo*, the son-of-some-body, and it gives him an ease of manner in which there is little trace of familiarity. **Recollections of a Planter's Son.** By William Alexander Percy. 348 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.

By HERSCHEL BRICKELL

MR. PERCY'S autobiography to the age of 55 is a work of exceptional merit and importance. The high quality of its prose would entitle it to consideration for a permanent place in our literature, and it has numerous other virtues as well. Its candor and completeness of revelation of the Southern aristocrat's point of view. The breed has never been plentiful and appears to be dying out, although it has qualities that may save it from extinction. It is a peculiar breed, not at all easy to understand, perhaps because its basic principles are protected by an outer charm which is at once bloom and camouflage.

To tell as much as Mr. Percy does about himself and his family, his experiences in this country and abroad, and his inner thoughts, without erring once on the side of taste, is in itself an achievement. Such restraint may seem merely quaint to a generation brought up in the school of "self-expression," but it may also prove refreshing to many who have grown weary of writers who tell all, and who really have very little to tell except, to say that life is a very ugly affair indeed. Mr. Percy does not think life is ugly, although he sees it clearly and whole, which is the first business of any intelligent human being.

A careful study of this book may furnish the key to a strange culture that is distinctly Chinese in its subtlety. It is a paradoxical compact of gentleness and violence. And those skeptics who may be irritated by the suggestion that there is such a thing as aristocracy in this democratic land will do well to realize that people live by their beliefs, not at all by the so-called realities. The reasonably well-born Southerner, like the Spaniard, is a comfortable person to have around, because he doesn't have to prove his equality with anybody; he knows in his heart that he is *hidalgo*, the son-of-some-body, and it gives him an ease of manner in which there is little trace of familiarity. Mr. Percy, who lives in the charming Mississippi River town of Greenville, which represents the section known as "the Delta" at its best, was once recognized as one of the most gifted poets in this country. His four volumes of verse are all distinguished, and a younger generation knows of him than it should be. It did not, and it was characteristic of him—and of his kind, let it be said—that he trusted in the Gospels and to the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius only, to guide his youthful charges aright. One of them is now the manager of Trail Lake, the other two on their way to being useful citizens, worthy of the name they bear.

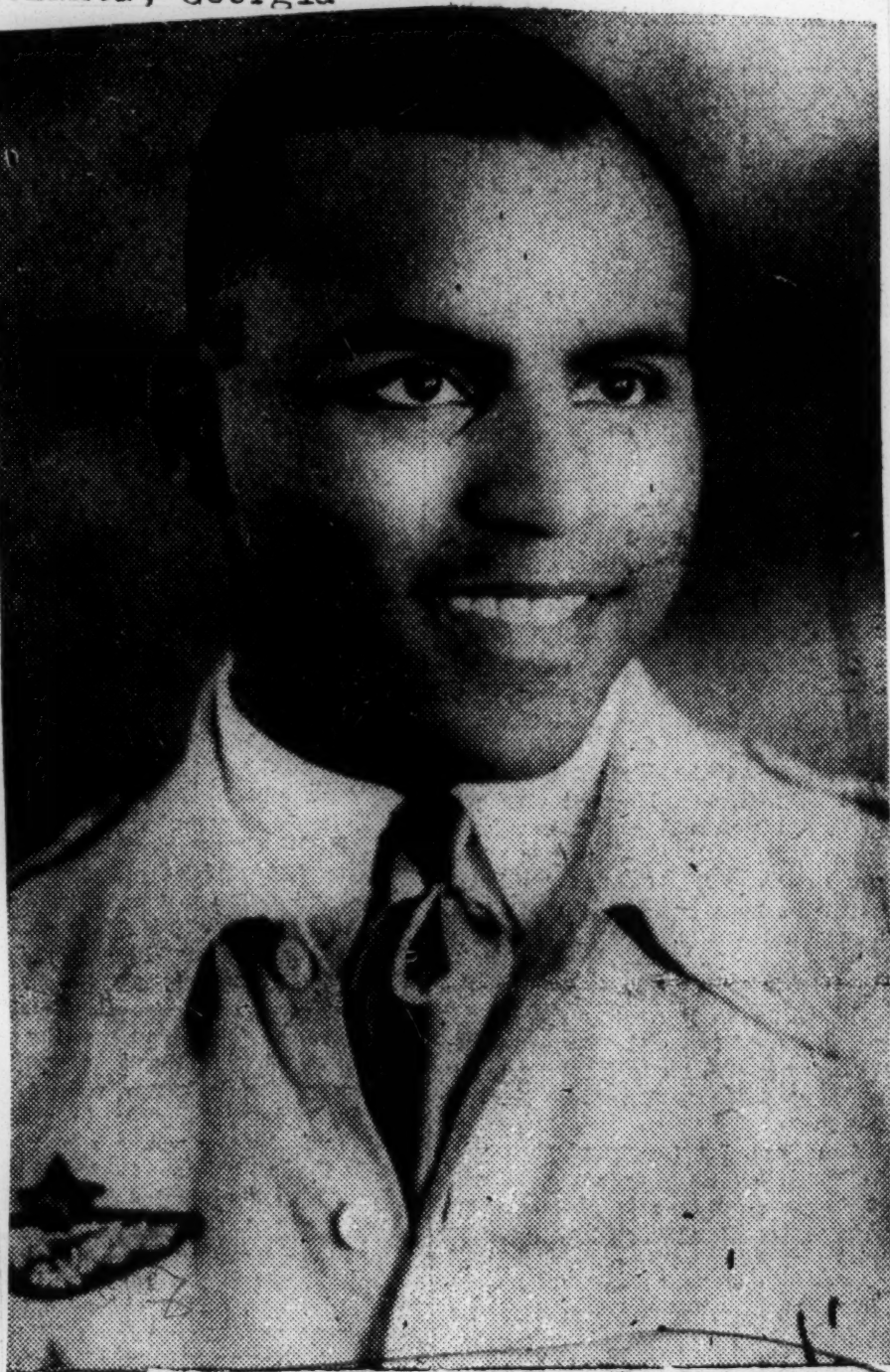
A dramatic chapter in the story is the account of the desperate and dangerous fight against the Ku Klux Klan in Washington County, of which Greenville is the county seat, led by Mr. Percy's father, who narrowly escaped being kidnapped, and perhaps murdered, shortly after the shocking tragedy of Mer Rouge, a Louisiana village across the river from Greenville. The anti-Klan faction won in an election for sheriff, and celebrated at the Percy home, in the absence of

Mrs. Percy; the hilarious account he went to Harvard Law School, gentleman unafraid. . . .
of the typical Delta celebration for three happy years; he traveled in Europe, whose art gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
brought tears of laughter to the eyes of this reviewer. . . .

In 1927, when Greenville had familiar to him as the Washington County Courthouse or the none of us can ever forget who Greenville levee, and he knows were in it at all, Mr. Percy was the South Seas and Japan as called upon to assume responsibility for the relief operations, the plowed fields of his plantation. So when he writes of Greenville, which he loves very deeply, it is as a citizen of the larger world, who may make occasional poetical flights into the solar system, but whose daily habit it is to swap town gossip with the citizenry over Coca-Cola. Occasionally I found Mr. Percy unwilling to accept Mr. Percy's statements at their face value, as, for example, when he contends that the Southern white man has refused firmly to lend himself to the amalgamation of the races. I think, from first-hand knowledge of the situation in the Delta and elsewhere, that the white man has far too often embraced the opportunity, or even made it, to do his bit toward scientific but dubious solution of the "race problem." There are, too, occasional errors that will need correcting in later printings (of which there should be many), such as the spelling of the name of General Pershing's aide as Quackmeyer; it was Quekemeyer. But these are trivial criticisms of an admirable book, which deserves not only to be read now, ways dealt fairly with their labors, but the get-rich-quick in-unusual life, a way of life, and vaders from the hills, called by an attitude toward life. It is the Delta people peckerwoods, often highly amusing, for the are less bound by principle. Like Percys are famous story-tellers. all men who have daily contact Mr. Percy's delicious humor never with social and economic problems excludes himself, a most ingrate, Mr. Percy is convinced that ignorant and mushminded dogooders only make the situation worse.

On the share-cropper system, about which an infinite amount of rubbish has been written, Mr. Percy is both informative and optimistic. He contends that the system, in the right hands, is one of the best ever devised to meet a peculiar farming problem. Of course, the trouble is there aren't enough right hands to go around, and he admits that the weakness of the system is that it allows unscrupulous white men to rob their colored partners almost at will. The best of the Delta of an admirable book, which deserves not only to be read now, ways dealt fairly with their labors, but the get-rich-quick in-unusual life, a way of life, and vaders from the hills, called by an attitude toward life. It is the Delta people peckerwoods, often highly amusing, for the are less bound by principle. Like Percys are famous story-tellers. all men who have daily contact Mr. Percy's delicious humor never with social and economic problems excludes himself, a most ingrate, Mr. Percy is convinced that ignorant and mushminded dogooders only make the situation worse.

One of the charms of the book lies in its intense localism, because its author is as much a part of Greenville as Greenville is of him, and its universality. Jonathan Daniels has referred to Mr. Percy as "more nearly a citizen of the solar system." Perhaps; at any rate, after he had finished at the mountaintop University of the South, or Sewanee, In any event, aristocratic virtues and standards themselves never die completely and never change at all. General Lee and Senator Lamar would have been at ease, even simpatico, with Pericles and Brutus and Sir Philip Sidney, as Washington was with Lafayette. A deeply wise and memorable book, this autobiography of a



Not content with supplying technical aeronautics articles to such publications as Aero Digest, Popular Aviation, Popular Science and the New York Times Magazine section, Lieutenant James H. Peck, pilot hero of the Spanish Loyalist Pursuit squadron, is now working on his new volume, "So You're Going to Fly." March issue of Harper's carried his latest article, "Bomber to Britain."

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"With the focal point of the war at present in and around Africa," says The Saturday Review of Literature. "James Saxon Childers' 'Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire,' coming out on May 23, is especially timely. The book deals with the whole of Africa and its people. . . . That's the point about being a newspaper man as well as a great travel writer. Mr. Childers' nose for news told him all along that Africa would be all the rage just about the time a book of his would be coming out about it."

If this democracy of ours is to be saved and extended as we so highly are resolved we need to know the sicknesses which have brought it to this low place. One of these, surely, is a certain sentimentality which has made the great subject but has neither the mental capacity for making decisions nor the stoutness of heart for taking stands. And which, to compound its already compounded felony, glorifies its indecisions as "open-mindedness" and its faint heart as a fine freedom from emotion.

Woodrow Wilson did not say that democracy must be imposed upon the world. But he demanded that there be a world in which democracy could live safely. Such a world cannot exist with Adolf Hitler controlling and organizing more than half of it.

8-1941

Time

Chicago, Illinois Experiment in Communication

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN—
James Agee & Walker Evans—Hough-
ton Mifflin (\$3.50).

As a book, this is the most distinguished failure of the season. Its author willed it so. "This is a *book* only by necessity," he remarks, in a preface devoted largely to alienating the reader; "it is intended, among other things, as a swindle, an insult, and a corrective."

But it is also an experiment in communication: "an attempt to reproduce and analyze the actual." Its medium: 32 photographs by Walker Evans and a 471-page commentary by James Agee. Subject: the life of three Alabama cotton tenant families, with whom the authors spent several weeks (as "spies") in the summer of '36.

Parts of the book come as close to reproducing the actual as words and pictures can. Evans' photographs of the landlord, the tenant families, their houses and town are as direct and honest as though his camera had no lens at all. Agee heaps up verbal detail on everything he saw or imagined, including:

The different tastes of the three springs; the Gudgers' kitchen bucket with its "fishy-metallic kind of shine and grease beyond any power of cleaning"; the exact texture of the house's pine siding; the stinking clay yard, and "the chilly and small dust which is beneath porches"; a Mark Twainesque catalogue of livestock from cats and mules to the "clutter of obese, louse-tormented hens"; an inventory of the contents of every house, out-house and room, including the smell of everything the author could (as he softly put it) "take odor of."

Agee's bad manners, exhibitionism and verbosity are a sort of author's curse at his own formidable failure to convey all he feels. Conventional acceptance of his book would be "the one unmistakable symptom that salvation is beaten again." His real aim is to enforce the realization that, the Gudgers, the Ricketts and the Woods, whose hopeless, subhuman lives he reverently exposes, are now alive, human brothers of the reader, sharers of "certain normal predicaments of human divinity," and patches are manifolded upon the

This obsession, more preacher's than poet's, drives Preacher-Poet Agee into so that at length, at the shoulders, some of the most exciting U.S. prose since the Melville; into mind-vaulting gusts of original fancy and a man . . . wears in irony, fur and scorn; into tedious stretch-work on the power of his shoulders as of self-indulgent introspection and child-fabric as intricate and fragile, and as fish philosophy. These are caused by Agee's deeply in honor of the reigning sun, as the determination to be ruthlessly faithful to feather mantle of a Toltec prince."

his own thoughts and feelings, even when they fail to make sense. His chief failure is one Photographer Evans scrupulously



Walker Evans

ANNIE MAE GUDGER
The lens could teach the preacher.

avoids: he clumsily intrudes between his subject and his audience, even when the subject is himself.

At his self-forgetful best, Agee has a delicacy and power that make the total effect of the book overwhelming. Even his most myopic descriptions are a poet's, as in his treatise on "overhauls," standard Southern farmworker's garment:

"A new suit of overalls has among its beauties those of a blueprint: and they are a map of a working man." After a while "the edges of the thigh pockets become stretched and lie open, fluted, like the gills of a fish. . . . The texture and the color change in union, by sweat, sun, laundering . . . into a region and scale of blues, subtle, delicious, and deft beyond what I have ever seen elsewhere approached. . . .

[The shirt] breaks like snow, and is stitched and patched . . . and stitches normal predicaments of human divinity." and patches are manifolded upon the poet's, drives Preacher-Poet Agee into so that at length, at the shoulders, some of the most exciting U.S. prose since the Melville; into mind-vaulting gusts of original fancy and a man . . . wears in irony, fur and scorn; into tedious stretch-work on the power of his shoulders as of self-indulgent introspection and child-fabric as intricate and fragile, and as fish philosophy. These are caused by Agee's deeply in honor of the reigning sun, as the determination to be ruthlessly faithful to feather mantle of a Toltec prince."

New York Times New York; N. Y. Negro From Nazareth

ROYAL ROAD. By Arthur Kuhl.
189 pp. New York: Sheed &
Ward. \$1.75.

IN a book that takes less than three hours to read Arthur Kuhl has told a tale that pierces the core of the problem of the Negro living in the world of white men. While his novelette "Royal Road" is not as ambitious a creative undertaking as "Native Son" which it naturally calls to mind, it succeeds notably in throwing the spotlight of attention upon the helplessness, the frustration, the confusion of the black man caught in the stranglehold of prejudice and persecution.

In a way Jesse Stewart, the hero of Kuhl's book, is more typical of his race than Bigger Thomas, for Jesse was no killer. He was a big-bodied, simple Negro, needing the warmth of human kindness for happiness, liking a glass of beer when he could afford it but strangely innocent of desire when it came to other worldly pleasures. His mental processes went no further than meeting the responsibilities of caring for his mother, a tiny, self-respecting, God-fearing widow. With her, he had come from the town of Nazareth in Kentucky to seek work in the Northern city.

Up to this point Jesse's story is the story of hundreds of thousands of Negroes who migrate from the South to the North in search of employment; beyond this point it is nothing but a glass of beer, but the story of the rather than be left with the persecution of a thoughts that were gnawing at race. As Kuhl tells the tale, it headed for the gay spots of the might be some-town. And then a woman thing taken from screamed that she had been a daily newspaper, so strictly ran. There was nothing else for does he hew to a Negro to do when a white woman screamed. He writes with did-hadn't been for the slick-minded rectness and la-Dude. To protect himself, Dude conic statement, brought the police to the beer'sa-

letting the events in his story rather than their elaboration take hold of the reader's mind. And at the close one realizes that the story of Jesse Stewart, in-

nocent Negro electrocuted for a crime he did not and could not commit, is a story that goes back to the dawn of Christianity.

Jesse Stewart might have stayed comfortably in Kentucky if his job as janitor in a school had not been taken from him by a white man. Up North he found competition for work intensified by the depression. His mother occasionally got a day's housework; occasionally he, also, brought in a bit of money. The two lived together in one room, knowing cold and hunger, but maintaining faith and hope in spite of hardships. Kuhl portrays the relationship between mother and son with warm sympathy. They were bound by love, but had few words to give expression to their feeling. Inarticulately but effectively they sought to protect each other against the blows of the outside world.

It was because he was ashamed and distressed at being forced to apply for relief that Jesse went out that ill-fated night with his two friends, Dude and Pete. Dude was in high spirits; he had won over \$30 gambling on a horse and, with the generosity of his kind, he was going to give the boys a good time. Jesse wanted nothing but a glass of beer, but the story of the rather than be left with the persecution of a thoughts that were gnawing at race. As Kuhl tells the tale, it headed for the gay spots of the might be some-town. And then a woman thing taken from screamed that she had been a daily newspaper, so strictly ran. There was nothing else for does he hew to a Negro to do when a white woman screamed. He writes with did-hadn't been for the slick-minded rectness and la-Dude. To protect himself, Dude conic statement, brought the police to the beer'sa-

loon where he knew Jesse would seek shelter and in the shuffle of confusion planted his bank roll on the protesting man. Pete was a decent sort, but fearful of what might happen to him in connection with the case, he disappeared from town.

The charge against Jesse was purse-snatching, but when his picture appeared in the newspapers the following day it turned into a more heinous crime. Under the prod of a District Attorney who sought re-election, two women recognized in Jesse Stewart the Negro who had figured in sex assaults and a murder. Excellently Kuhl portrays the bewildered Negro, helpless and lost in a world that knew no justice or mercy. Physically broken by torture, he maintained his innocence to the last, knowing all along that he would pay with his life for a crime he had never committed. Only at the close, just before he was led to the chamber of death did he break down with the words, "O God, O God, why don' ya he'p me? Don' leave me now! Don' leave me now!"

When his mother came to claim the body of her son she gave the clerk the information he wanted: Jesse Stewart, son of Mary and Joseph Stewart, born in Bethlehem, Pa., 33 years old on Christmas Day. The parallel is obvious. Under a less sensitive hand it might have been offensive, but as Kuhl tells the story it is a simple, heart-breaking tale of a gentle Negro whose doom was written in the color of his skin.

ROSE FELD.

The Long State

Tarheels, by Jonathan Daniels. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company. 347 pages. \$3.

OCT 29 1941

A SIGNIFICANT INDEX of the modern critical temper, writing down its judgments as it runs, is that this book by Jonathan Daniels, way and away his best job, has been fairly generally ignored. It is a book about a state, the state of North Carolina, and it is full of good sense and able judgments about America and the American way of life: which means that it must be put aside in favor of that umpteenth book about how France was betrayed, or that stream-of-consciousness novel about two flag-pole sitters and a bearded lady on a raft.

There is not much anyone can do about it, except to urge this book upon those who still have an inclination toward the domestic and who would like to know what life in America is like. It is not a profound book, and Mr. Daniels is not saving anybody or anything; and if you like prophecies, or blueprints of the future, it is not the book for you. Its audience must be limited to those who still believe that the center of our national gravity is not France or Norway, not England or Yugoslavia, but forty-eight states more or less like North Carolina.

It is what is ticketed a "regional" book, of course, whereas a similar book about the Bronx, for some mysterious reason, wouldn't be. People like old Buck Duke appear in its pages, and the shrewd barber who founded the largest insurance company for Negroes in the world, and there are other people like linheads and tobacco-planters and mountaineers. It would have been hard for Mr. Daniels not to write a good book about North Carolina, which is one of the most colorful states in the Union, but he brings to his task a knowledge that cuts much deeper than that displayed in "A Southerner Discovers the South" and the frequently superficial feature-writer's reporting that went into "A Southerner Discovers New England." His chapter on the town of Gastonia, for example, might stand as a covering essay for the whole of the industrial cotton-mill South, and at least one passage from his comments on eating and drinking insists upon quotation:

At its most romantic, the praise of native corn liquor always belonged to the school of the fox who lost his tail pointing to taillessness as perfection. At its best, aged in home-sized kegs which could be purchased at most of the chain stores, corn liquor was a potable drink full of the mule's heels. Gentlemen exchanged private systems for reducing the shock to the palate, which extended all the way from the introduction of dried fruits into the liquor to advanced chemical procedures. But at their worst, corn liquor and monkey rum (which in North Carolina was the distilled syrup of sorghum cane) were concoctions taken stoically, with retching and running eyes, for the effect beyond

the first fusel-oil belch. There was certainly a democracy in drinking then. Rich and poor drank with the same gasping. Indeed, when a death by gunshot wound resulted in the relation of the details of a party in one of the state's richest houses, it came out that before the gun went off they had been drinking corn whiskey and chasing it down with near beer.

Little else can be said about a book like this without falling into guff or without quibbling about minor points which do not really matter. I can't though, for the life of me, understand what Mr. Daniels has against the mountains of western North Carolina: the mere sight of them makes him feel grouchy. But, in any case, Mr. Daniels has brought off a difficult job with admirable speed and it is to be hoped that his book will be widely read. The general series, of which it is the second volume, appearing under the Dodd, Mead imprint and called The Sovereign State Series, promises to be the very best of its kind.

HAMILTON BASSO

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Negro In American Life Treated In WPA Series

WASHINGTON, D. C.—With the nation-wide observance of American Guide Week scheduled for November 10 to 16, Alfred Edgar Smith, Staff Adviser on Race Relations of the Federal Works Projects Administration, called attention to the pertinent and interesting facts on the Negro in American life which are to be found in many of the books making up the American Guide Series of the WPA Writers' Program.

There is a Guide book for every State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Alaska. A number of these books contain whole chapters or passages which recount the historical, economic, and cultural facts concerning the Negro.

Mr. Smith listed the following American Guide Series and other WPA Writers' Program books concerned with the Negro or which include sections dealing with Negro life, together with the publishers or organizations from which they can be obtained:

Delaware: A Guide to the First State. New York, Viking Press
New York City: Guide to the World's Greatest Metropolis—Vol. I, New York Panorama. New York, Random House

New Orleans: City Guide. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co.

North Carolina: Guide to the Old North State. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press

Philadelphia: Guide to the Nation's Birthplace. Philadelphia, Wm. Penn Association

Tennessee: Guide to the Volunteer State. New York, Viking Press
Washington: City and Capital. Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office

Georgia: A Guide to its Towns and Countryside. Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia Press

The Negro in Virginia. Obtainable: Mr. Roscoe Lewis, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.

Cavalcade of The American Negro. Illinois WPA Writers' Project, Chicago, Ill.

The Negroes of Nebraska. Omaha Urban League, 2213 Lake Street, Omaha, Neb.

Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock. Obtainable: Urban League of Greater Little Rock, Ark.

Drums and Shadows (A Study of Geechee Dialects of Georgia Coastal Negroes). University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga.

These Are Our Lives. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Beaufort and the Sea Islands (S. C.). Obtainable: Beaufort Clover Club

Mississippi Gulf Coast: Yesterday and Today. Obtainable: Women's Club of Gulfport, Miss.

San Diego, California. San Diego Historical Society

Seeing St. Augustine, (Fla.). Chamber of Commerce, St. Augustine

Albany, Ga., Herald
October 16, 1941

Albany Writer's Book Published This Week

Mrs. Alice Keenen Cripps, well-known Albany writer, who lives at 630 Pine avenue, is the author of a book which was released this week by W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, of Grand Rapids, Mich.

"Glory Road," which is the title of the book, is a keen and hearty sketch of the Negro. The book has a local setting, which is familiar to Albanians. Familiar names also appear on the pages of this book.

It is a story of Negroes, and the life they lead. The publishers have expressed great enthusiasm for it, and expect big things from it. Two of the largest motion picture corporations are considering filming the story.

Mrs. Cripps, who is known in Albany and Dougherty county as the visiting school teacher, has been writing for 30 years. However, this is her first book. She

has sold a number of short stories. She has already started work on her next book, which has been tentatively named "Fetters That Free." It will be published next year.

Mrs. Cripps explained that she has capitalized on living where she does by sitting in the window and watching the Negroes pass down the street and listening to their conversations, which she has so accurately reproduced in the book. She also explained that she sets forth her philosophy of life in her writing, so that her children may remember it.

"Glory Road" will be reviewed in Sunday's Herald in the regular

book column. It is expected that the book will be on sale in Albany the latter part of the week.

Albany Author



Mrs. Alice Keenen Cripps, shown above, is the author of "Glory Road," a story of Negro life, which was released this week by Eerdmans Publishing Company.

8-19 41

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

BOOK REVIEW

APR 18 1941
Synopsis and Criticism

"The Negro in Tennessee"

WASHINGTON.—Dean A. A. Taylor has again written his name on the roll of historical scholars of the country in the production of his illuminating treatise on "THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE," 1865-1880 (Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C., price \$3.00). Here we have increasing evidence of the ability of the Negro to tell his own story.

Numerous writers of the white race have written on reconstruction in Tennessee from the point of view of those who hated the Negro and finally eliminated him from politics. Some of these writers tried to be fair, but they did not see the Negro except as a misfit and a morplot. In order to complete the picture, the Negro must be given an opportunity to testify for himself. No honest judge will give judgment until this is done. Through this scholar, therefore, the Negro again gets a hearing at the bar of public opinion.

The average man with the usual American bias pays little attention to what the Negro says spontaneously in his own behalf; but in this book, which the author has well documented in supporting his conclusions, historians of all races will find facts, which will influence them to express a different opinion and possibly to change their attitude. This scholarly work cannot be ignored. All must take it into account.

Dr. Taylor's background is an assurance of his ability to perform this task. He is an educator of experience, and almost a decade has been serving as dean of Fisk university. He is a product of the public schools of Washington, D. C., the University of Michigan, and Harvard, where he obtained the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy.

For a number of years he worked as an investigator of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and

political, but it was economic and social. While there were men in conventions and in legislative halls discussing political measures and working out reforms, the forces outside of these which had worked in the home in the schools, and in the churches as well as in the industries of the state finally determined what the political outcome would be. This book, moreover, presents something new not in writing especially about the Negro but in projecting the Negro into the picture along with all other elements of the population. Other works on the reconstruction in Tennessee have merely referred to the Negro as a problem or an evil to be eradicated. In "THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE," the whole theater of reconstruction has been reproduced, and Tennessee has been made a part of a national drama.

On of the important contributions made in this study of Tennessee is the background of the present day achievements in that state. After reading this work the present aspects of Negro life become clarified by knowing the peculiar course which matters took in that state three generations ago. Valuable service has been rendered in interpreting the past in terms of the present and the present in terms of the past. While looking backward this historian has looked forward, and he enables the reader to see in both directions.

APR 18 1941 G. Woodson

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Deep South

APR 20 1941

"HOME BY THE RIVER," by Archibald Rutledge (Bobbs-Merrill, \$3.)

IN 1937, after serving a 33-year stretch of teaching at Mercersburg (Pa.) Academy, Archibald Rutledge went back home to Hampton Plantation. This is a 2,000-acre tract on the south bank of the Santee River near McClellanville in South Carolina, 10 miles up from the ocean and just off the Coastal Highway. The place has been in the family since 1686. George Washington slept there in 1791. "For God's sake," he wrote on ahead before his arrival, "give my rider some grog."

"Home by the River" is Mr. Rutledge's story of his adventures at Hampton during the past four years. Mostly it is an account of his ambitious restoration of Hampton to something of its former beauty, elegance and atmosphere. There is at Hampton a sort of ecological unity—the Whites, the Negroes, the river, the animals, the plants, the wildwoods. Mr. Rutledge has tried to preserve this balance of Man and Nature, and, because he understands both so well, he has succeeded. His book is also a blend of the past with the present, history and tradition with the Deep South of today.

In his own right Mr. Rutledge is a poet and naturalist, but before he was done with Hampton's restoration he had also to be an architect, an antiquarian, a farmer and gardener, an expert in flood control, a conservationist, a sportsman, a sociologist. His book, then, will appeal to many classes of readers. It must have been a pleasant book to write, touching as it does apparently everything known best and loved best by its author.

And here's a tip to Farrar & Rinehart, who are publishing the "Rivers of America" series: When you get around to the Santee (the largest river of the eastern United States), Archibald Rutledge is your man.

PAUL H. OEHSE.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Restoration of Carolina Home

APR 20 1941

Described In Beautiful Prose

HOME BY THE RIVER, THE STORY OF HAMPTON PLANTATION. By Archibald Rutledge. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.

If you've ever wanted to restore a gracious and crumbling old plantation house, this is definitely your book. It is the story of the restoration of Hampton Plantation, the 209 year old ancestral home of the author, and incidentally a statement of his love for every nail, timber, tree, shrub and acre of South Carolina rice plantation.

Deserted plantation houses in the Carolinas carefully treated by skilled architects backed by unlimited check books of Northern millionaires have ceased to be a novelty. Indeed some of them are more elaborate than the originals. Archibald Rutledge is no millionaire but he was equipped with an infinite love for Hampton and all it stood for. Exciting adventures in basement rooms, secret passages and attics hold your interest.

Well written chapters concerning the history and background of Hampton are enlivened by revealing family legends concerning Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox of the Revolution, British Colonel Banastre Tarleton, who stole the Parish Bible and prayer book, Edward Rutledge, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Rutledge, the able governor of South Carolina in 1791, and George Washington, who visited the plantation when he made his triumphal tour of the South.

ward Rutledge, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Rutledge, the able governor of South Carolina in 1791, and George Washington, who visited the plantation when he made his triumphal tour of the South.

"Sometimes," writes Mr. Rutledge, "when I stand on the porch in the moonlight, I imagine that I can see the Santee Indians flitting from oak to oak; then Francis Marion and his partisans stealing in by the back door to devour the leavings of a plantation dinner; then the chariot of General Washington, coming up in state, somewhat creaky for need of axle grease. And I see Judith Serree, my far ancestress, whose father built Hampton; and I think of the book I have inscribed 'Judith, her book, Hampton, 1730.' and I realize that I, too, am but a visitor here in this stately home. I am, therefore, trying to be a considerate guest."

Devotees of romantic history, garden and nature lovers and lovers of a rich and beautiful English prose will all enjoy the author's adventures in restoring this home on the Santee River.

HAROLD L. LEISURE,
Publicity Director,
Vicksburg Pilgrimage.

New York ~~Age~~

New York, N. Y.

117th Year Book For Foster Home Service Shows Rapid Growth

The 117th Year Book of the New York's Child's Foster Home Service, 305-307 East 86th street, formerly the Foster Home Department of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital, reports a rapid growth during the last six years since this agency was incorporated as a distinct organization. The staff then numbering 19, now lists 35 workers. In 1940 631 homeless New York babies were provided with foster homes. This is the largest number of children ever cared for by this agency in a single year. The daily twenty-four hour service for each child continues.

All children receive adequate health care. This includes convalescent care, preventive visits to the clinic, in some cases psychiatric consultations, special diets, and all-round building up supervised by graduate nurses. Skilled caseworkers harmonize intricate relationships helping adults, as well as children to adjust to new situations. The children are all under two years old when first brought to the New York Child's Foster Home Service. About half of them are colored.

The members of the board of directors are Mrs. Hudson Budd, J. Dudley Clark Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cushman Charles B. DeLafield, William Rodman Fay, Devereux C. Josephs, Mrs. William T. Kennedy, Mrs. Paris Phillips, Mrs. Harold C. Richard, Mrs. Albert L. Smith, Mrs. Harold V. Smith, Mrs. Frederick C. Tanner, and Joseph Walker. The executive director is Mrs. Margaret N. Shriver.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

New Booklet Describes Work NYA Has Done For The Negro

APR 7 - 1941

APR 7 - 1941

About 300,000 Young People Have Benefited under Program

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—National Youth Administrator Aubrey Williams today announced the release of a new NYA publication entitled, "The Tenth Youth."

"The Tenth Youth" describes the work which the National Youth Administration is doing and has done for Negro young people since the NYA was established in 1935. At the very beginning, a Division of Negro Affairs was established as an integral part of the organization to insure the integration and complete participation of Negro youth in every phase of the program.

APR 7 - 1941
MRS. BETHUNE DIRECTS

Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, director of the Division of Negro Affairs, and members of her staff have helped formulate the policies under which Negro people have received a fair share of the benefits available to high school, college and graduate students and of the work experience provided for out-of-school youth to earn while they learn to work. Since the NYA program began to operate in June, 1936, about 3000,000 Negro youth have received wages from the National Youth Administration for part-time work to fit them for employment in private industry. Negro young people employed on the NYA student work program are assisting in classrooms, laboratories, museums, on research and statistical studies; working in the libraries; constructing classroom models and apparatus; and tutoring physically handicapped students.

APR 7 - 1941
WORK IS DIVIDED

About ten per cent of the Negro youth employed by NYA are doing clerical and general office work. About twenty per cent are serving as assistants to professional recreation and health workers. Another twenty per cent are gaining experience in various types of shop work, in woodworking, sheet-metal, auto mechanics, and machine shop practice, or making and repairing clothing. About ten per cent, mostly girls, prepare

school lunches and assist in nursery schools and another ten per cent work on "resident projects" where youth live together, receiving subsistence and a small cash wage in return for their work.

In her introduction to "The Tenth Youth" Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune states that "These young people are not looking for a royal road to riches. They are looking for jobs—opportunity to do the things they are capable of doing. The National Youth Administration is preparing youth for their place in every phase of our program for National Defense."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Catholics Publish History Book Favorable to Negroes

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — More than 10,000 copies were sold within the first 10 days following publication of a new textbook on American history and civics in which the Negro is treated more favorably and is being used in all parochial schools in Brooklyn, according to the Bruce Publishing company, publishers of the volume. Designed for the elementary schools, "America: Land of Achievement," has been prepared anonymously by the Sisters of Mercy of the Brooklyn community.

Interspersed throughout this narrative of America from reconstruction days to the New Deal are sections dealing with the multiple disadvantages with which the Negro citizen has been forced to contend. Catholic leaders who have long believed that one of the best ways to eradicate the blight of racism is to bring the teachings of interracial justice to the schools are apparently receiving the textbook with warm approval.

In the book's treatment of the Negro, the subject material has been woven into the warp of the text rather than segregated to an all-inclusive chapter or two. At various points and in several ways it contrasts the growth of American prosperity with the paucity of the Negro's reward. It speaks of some of the Negro's accomplishments and leaders with specific detail given to the lives of Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver, famous Tuskegees.

The work of such religious orders as the Josephite Fathers, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the Jesuits, Benedictines, Capuchins, Franciscans, Dominicans and others interested in furthering the progress of the Negro is explained.

According to the publishers, copies of the book have been sent out in great numbers to many parts of the country with the hope of stimulating added interest. One letter from a southerner is said to have

been received by the authors in which the writer complained that too much praise had been accorded the Negro.

Because of the wide initial demand, another edition is expected to be run off soon.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 10, 1941

GOVAN ADDRESSES TEACHERS' UNION

U.C. Librarian and Times' Book Critic Speaks on
Colored Writers

Gilbert Govan spoke at the meeting of the Modern Literature group, Chattanooga Teachers' union, held last week at the home of Mrs. H. B. Robinson, on Crewdson street.

Mr. Govan, Chattanooga Times' book critic and librarian of the University of Chattanooga, spoke on "American Literature Written by the Negro." Marking Phyllis Wheatley's writing in 1773 as the historical beginning of American literature by the Negro, Mr. Govan stated "it is in the work of such writers as Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson, that we find potentialities of the American Negro for writing great literature nearest fulfillment."

These men, in Mr. Govan's opinion, are of that group of Negro writers whose dominating philosophy is the development of racial pride and consciousness of racial integrity and dignity. In commenting on "Native Son," by Richard Wright, Mr. Govan said that Wright belonged to the group of Negro writers whose work was an appeal for sympathy toward the Negro and his position in our national life.

Asserting that there is a third group among Negro writers who write with total lack of racial consciousness, Mr. Govan said that the great Negro writers were to be found among those who shared the feeling of racial pride and integrity that Cullen, Hughes and Johnson have.

8-1941

Telegraph Macon, Georgi. Revolt of Have-Nots

THE USURPER Dramatically Emphasizes Changes Made in Economic Order in South

THE USURPER, by Harry Harrison Kroll. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. 450 pp \$2.50.

APR 7 - 1941

It would be hard to tell what the Mississippi delta has produced in greater quantity, cotton or fiction based on the age-old revolt of the have-nots against the haves.

Ever so often you run into another novel based on the differences between the landed gentry and the sharecroppers, but most of them are not as good as this latest effort of Harry Kroll.

Mr. Kroll has written a good book, full of action and drama. It is one of the best works to come out of the South in a long time.

The principal character is Stan Butterworth, a "peckerwood" who comes up the hard way and learns to outwit the plantation owners who consider themselves too good for him socially.

He becomes president of the bank of Cottontown, buys the city's finest old home, even becomes general chairman of the annual Cotton Festival, and through his wealth finally comes to play a dominant role in all the community's affairs, much to the chagrin of the plantation-owning set.

Butterworth is only one of many absorbing characters. There are Lacey McFerrin and her family, genteel while they have it but not too good to steal when they don't; Blease Reagan and his family, sharecroppers with no better judgment than to attempt the organization of croppers' union; E. E. Olds, a banker with a big paunch and little conscience, and Lallie Belle, the flaming, shameless daughter of the down-trodden, determined to rise somehow.

The conflict between these characters begins with the advent of the depression in 1929 and continues until the present. It sets the stage for what characters in the book describe as the South's social and economic revolution.

Much in the book is comparable to conditions in Georgia. Perhaps we are seeing and will continue to see many of the events and

possibilities so brilliantly pictured by Mr. Kroll.

Mr. Kroll's book is a fine study of the breaking down of an old economic and social order and the pathetic struggles of a new one.—

FRANK HAWKINS
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Sea Island Negroes

DRUMS AND SHADOWS. By the Savannah Unit, Georgia Writers' Project. 274 pp. Illustrated. Athens: University of Georgia Press. \$3.

GULLAH. By Mason Crum. 351 pp. Illustrated. Durham: Duke University Press. \$3.50.

THESE two excellent books are rich in colorful information on the customs of the Negroes on the sea islands of Georgia and South Carolina. The first, by the Savannah Unit of the Writers' Project of the State, covers the fresher ground only because fewer chronicles have recorded the stories of Sapelo, St. Simon's and St. Mary's; the Carolina Low Country has had many to write of the people of St. Helena, Edisto and other green jewels that fringe that charmed coast.

To commit such material as these volumes contain to the printed page is a real service to folklore. The generation of Negroes raised under the tutelage of former slaves is thinning, and sophistication is coming even to the last point of the outermost barrier island. The simple life, close to nature, of the Negroes who, on the sea islands, retained their racial heritage in purest forms is changing.

The workers who compiled

"Drums and Shadows" went into the field and set down the results of many conversations, searching particularly for African heritages in the customs and beliefs of the Negroes. An interesting appendix cites parallels between the folklore of the sea islanders and of the people of Africa. The interviews reported convince one that a faithful task has been done and Georgia can justly be gratified at this addition to the annals of the State.

Mr. Crum's book covers broadly the South Carolina sea islands and their people. He is a discerning historian of the social customs of the "Gullah" Negroes and their strange speech and has been industrious in the searching out of source material. No more thorough review of the Gullah people has been presented. Mr. Crum is modest—and accurate—in recording his belief (shared by such authorities as Ambrose Gonzales) that there are vast areas in the background of the Negro's thinking which are never revealed to the white man. Especially is this so of the people of the black race who, like those on the sea islands, retain their simple ways of life. Mr. Crum's book is an admirable and sincere contribution to the story of the Gullah people.

C. MCD. PUCKETTE.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

10,000
COPIES
ARE SOLD

Catholics Publish New Text-
book Favorable to Our
Group.

NEW YORK, April 10.—(ANP) — More than 10,000 copies were sold within the first 10 days following publication of a new textbook on American history and civics in which the Negro is treated more favorably and is being used in all parochial schools in Brooklyn, according to the Bruce Publishing company, publishers of the volume. Designed for the elementary schools, "America: Land of Achievement," has been prepared anonymously by the Sisters of Mercy of the Brooklyn community.

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Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

The Old Carolinas.

HILTON HEAD, by Josephine Pinckney Farrar & Rhinehart, New York. 524 pp. Illust. \$2.75.

"The long shadows of the masts joined and ran aft as the sun sank dead ahead, cutting the deck in half with a black quill-stroke. There was no wind, and where the hawser broke the brittle yellow-suffused river above the anchor, the ship hung at the end of a plumb line drawn true by the strong ebb. Westward the savage American mainland spread away its tree-tops olive-green in the raw light. The men on the deck of the "Adventure" breathed more easily as the powerful rays declined, though the mosquitoes came out in clouds and kept them cursing and thrashing about. Only the Indians preserved an admirable calm, unaware of any discomfort, or perhaps

contemptuous of thin white skins."

Such is the beginning, such the flavor, of this novel of the Carolinas in the 17th century. Henry Woodward, young London surgeon come to this "savage continent" to seek his fortune, is its central figure. He is, says the author, a historical character, whose "footprints" are to be found in the Archives of the Indies at Seville, as well as in the papers of the contemporary Earl of Shaftsbury. Again quoting the author: "Except for a few unimportant figures all the people in these pages actually existed. The personalities I have given them are in part historical, in part a long guess." Readers will probably conclude that while her guesses may be long, the resulting personalities are convincingly real.

The author presents a stage crowded, but not too crowded, with the colorful setting of colonial America and peopled with characters that fit naturally into this gaudy historical tapestry. The eventful and constantly shifting narrative presents something of the nature of the picaresque novel, a form of narration revived from a long death and increasingly popular in recent years. But a picaresque novel firmly anchored to historical events is something new in the world, an interesting experiment of great promise. Miss Pinckney does extremely well with this daring maneuver, and deserves a large audience.

OLE H. LEXAU.

Umteteli Wa Bantu
Johannesburg
South Africa

AN AFRICAN YEAR BOOK

The Editor, Umteteli
MR. D. D. NGUBENI, Urbanville, George, C.P., writes: Sir,—Kindly allow me to refer to my African Year Book. It was my aim to complete it by this month (March), but it could not be done because I did not get the full data (information) in time. I had sent out my circulars at the time when people were preparing for the Christmas holidays and I have been asked by many of the recipients to extend the time of publication, and this I have decided to do. The date of publication has therefore been deferred till May.

The South

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH. By W. J. Cash. Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.75. APR 5 1941

"THE Congo is not more different from Massachusetts or Kansas or California," than Alabama, said Mr. Carl Carmer, himself a native of New York State and a Southerner by adoption. That is a hyperbole, according to Mr. Cash who is a native of South Carolina and long a citizen of the most "progressive" of Southern states, North Carolina. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that Alabama is almost as different from North Carolina or Virginia.

"Nevertheless," writes Mr. Cash in what he calls a Preview to Understanding, "if it can be said that there are many Souths, the fact remains that there is also one South." Furthermore, although fundamentally it derives from the common American heritage—"To imagine it existing outside this continent would be quite impossible"—"the peculiar history of the South has so greatly modified it from the general American norm that, when viewed as a whole, it decisively justifies the notion that the country is—not quite a nation within a nation, but the next thing to it." APR 5 1941

To understand the mind of the South as such Mr. Cash feels it is necessary to understand this peculiar history, and a large proportion of his book is taken up with a sort of meditative sociological retrospect. From this it is fairly apparent that the "one South" (as Mr. Cash implies but does not clearly state, although he calls one of his chapters Of the Frontier the Yankee Made) is the creation of the North. Neither before nor during the War of Secession was the South truly united, and this was a not negligible factor in the defeat of the Confederacy. It took the sufferings of Reconstruction and after to unite the South to such an extent that it is still "solid," still refers to that war as "the" war, has only lately begun to criticize itself, and still cannot stand criticism by an outsider. The report of President Roosevelt's special committee a year or two ago, though in some ways it might be interpreted as a far greater criticism of the economically dominant sections of the country, was widely resented even by Southern intellectuals.

That is because, as Mr. Cash shows, there is one South also in the sense that both the Old South and the New South are legends, springing from the same necessity, that of affirming the difference and self-sufficiency of the South; so that the paradox of believing at the same time that the South is entirely different from the rest of the country and yet just as up-to-date, progressive, and "American" gives very few Southerners pause. The first Southern intellectuals to see through the legend of the New South, the Agrarians, fell back upon the legend of the Old in a modified form. In doing this, however, they were not taking a unique line, but following the same pattern as some of our Neo-Thomists or

some of the English intellectuals who have recoiled from the ruins left by the collapse of capitalist expansion to take refuge among the early Tudors or the late Whigs. Some of the intellectuals, Mr. Cash points out, showed, on the other hand, "a marked tendency to react to a new extreme, and as they sloughed off the old imperative to use their writings as a vehicle for glorifying and defending Dixie, to take more or less actively to hating and denouncing the South." As examples he cites Thomas Wolfe, Erskine Caldwell, and, a little more dubiously, William Faulkner. But here again the Southern writers are exemplifying a national, perhaps an international tendency of the period between two wars, as Van Wyck Brooks has explained in a recent article in the *Saturday Review of Literature*, drawn from his new book "On American Literature." "I think our generation," says Mr. Brooks, "will be remembered as the one in which everyone hated, often without visible reason, the town in which he was born." Indeed, some of the most conspicuous characteristics of the Southern mind, such as its individualism and its rhetorical cast, might be viewed as intensifications of tendencies predominant in the American mind as a whole, and common in some degree to all peoples nurtured in a parliamentary and democratic tradition. (For the South is democratic as well as Democratic.) APR 5 1941

In short, though to Northerners this is a truism and to many Southerners treason, what makes the mind of the South different is that it thinks it is. Even the influence of the Negro problem is one of degree and not of kind. From this Mr. Cash excepts Virginia, which, on account of its unique history, its priority on the scene, and other factors, he believes really achieved what the rest of the South only aspired to. To everyone except dialectical materialists, however, this constitutes as valid a difference as any, in fact a difference of utmost reality and importance. To explain why the South thinks it is different is the object of Mr. Cash's study. Of the actual mind of the South he says comparatively little. This is a sociological rather than a psychological or intellectual examination, and it is largely historical. There is very little in it which has not been recounted many times before; but the emphasis and purpose are new. It will doubtless be an aid to an understanding on the part of Americans of other regions who have been alternately charmed and maddened, and always puzzled, by the apparent paradoxes and inconsistencies of the Southern viewpoint. It might have been more interesting for those who know the South if it had been written from a greater distance. Mr. Cash sometimes seems to be confused by the trees. As a Southerner himself he deprecates plain-speaking and takes his time to convey a conclusion. In the matter of style he often carries individualism to the point of quaintness, and rhetoric to the point of Carlylese. But these are minor blemishes of a thoughtful and knowledgeable book.

JAMES ORRICK

New Masses New York, N. Y.

WHITTLING BOY: THE STORY OF ELI WHITNEY, by Roger Burlingame. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.

APR 8 1941
The life of Eli Whitney is an almost entirely neglected chapter of American history. To most people, mention of his name evokes a hasty thought of the cotton gin, and little more. Actually the cotton gin, which served to compensate the slaveholders for the declining importation of Negroes and helped them become a factor in the English textile industry, was only one of Whitney's accomplishments. By devising a technique for duplicating parts in the manufacture of metal goods, that is, by making possible interchangeable parts, Whitney hastened the development of mass production methods. The transformation of industry in the northern states in the early nineteenth century, from handicraft to factory production, owes much to Whitney's technical genius. APR 8 1941

Mr. Burlingame's book is a fictionalized biography, based on original sources. Most of the dialogue is constructed from letters and diaries, frequently with painful results. The story, if one can call it that, is labored and naive, for what the author has done is to use his sources without evaluating them. The result is a novel with plenty of period atmosphere, but a hero who is presented as a very odd mixture of Horatio Alger and the Rover Boys.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

BOOK STUDIES YOUTH IN LIBERAL CITIES.

WASHINGTON, May 23 (ANP) —The fifth and last of the studies in Negro youth personality development made by the American Youth Commission, "Thus Be Their Destiny," attempts to show how boys and girls grow up in three small cities, towns of liberal traditions in both the North and South.

Greensboro, N. C., Galesburg, Ill., and Milton, Mass., are the towns which though widely separated geographically and culturally have a tradition in common of liberality towards Negroes.

8-1941
The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

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JAN 24 1941

Negro History Week will be celebrated during the week of February 9th. In connection with that week a number of books are being advertised as sources of Negro history. We submit to our readers some short reviews of several of these books.

THE BLACK MAN IN WHITE AMERICA

By John G. Van Deusen

The book goes deeply into the attitudes toward the Negro in this country in order to account for his present status. The various techniques by which the Negro is circumvented in preventing him from exercising the rights guaranteed under the Constitution are given in detail. And yet the book is devoted in a large measure to an evaluation of the contributions of the Negro to progress in the United States—an appraisal of what the race has thought and felt and attempted and accomplished. No important field of endeavor in which Negroes have starred has been omitted. The work is scientifically done, the facts are set forth according to modern historiography in order that they may tell their own story. (338 Pages. Price \$3.25)

JAN 24 1941

NEGRO MAKERS OF HISTORY

By Carter G. Woodson

This is a textbook for children of the sixth and seventh grades or of the junior high school. It is an introductory work in simple language. The book omits no essentials, but it avoids details which interest only advanced students.

The very make-up of the book is so worked out as to make it attractive and useful for children. It has one hundred and eighty-five illustrations portraying almost every aspect of the life and history of the Negro. The type is large and readable. Nothing as it passes into its sixth edition chapter covers more than about six

or seven pages. At the end of each chapter is a summary of the facts, and this is followed by hints and questions (362 pages. \$1.65 by mail)

THE STORY OF THE NEGRO RETOLD

By Carter G. Woodson

This is an intermediate textbook of Negro-American History. It is intended to bridge the gap between the first textbook of this series entitled "Negro Makers of History" and the author's advanced work, "The Negro in Our History"; and it deals with matters concerning the Negro in international spheres not treated in the other two books. "The Story of the Negro Retold" introduces the study of the Negro in the high school. The book is copiously illustrated and planned in conformity to the requirements of the schoolroom in the light of recent educational methods. The language, too, is simplified to adapt it to the capacity of those to be taught. Teachers required to cover the field of Negro history during one semester will find this succinct treatment the very volume desired. By using the supplementary materials suggested in the bibliography the instructor may extend the course through a much longer period. (377 pages. \$2.15 by mail.)

THE NEGRO IN OUR HISTORY

By Carter G. Woodson

In this work the author has endeavored to meet the long-felt want for a suitable textbook adapted to the capacity of college students desirous of knowing the leading facts of Negro life and history. The numerous references for more extensive treatment of the various topics considered, moreover, render it useful for advanced classes in universities. It is now being used as a textbook in colleges and universities in twenty-three states, and its popularity is increasing. The author discusses the African

background, the enslavement of the race, colonization, abolition, freedom, and citizenship.

This work at the same time is highly recommended in library circles as the best reference book on the Negro now available. In many respects it is the most popular work of the sort, for it has sold up into the tens of thousands. (700 pages. \$4.25 by mail.)

Any of these books may be obtained by sending money order or check to the Associated Publishers, Inc. 1538 Ninth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Journal and Guide Norfolk, Virginia

"Underground Railroad"

FEB 1 1941

By THELMA NURENBURG
(For ANP)

THE LATEST publisher to find the "underground railroad" a subject of universal interest is Harper Bros., who are honoring Negro history week by releasing "Let My People Go!" in February. Written by Henrietta Buckmaster, the book represents four years of intense research work as well as extensive travelling along the underground railroad routes to interview persons related to "conductors" and slaves who made the perilous trip to freedom.

Miss Buckmaster, who is a well-known magazine writer and also the author of two novels, "Tomorrow Is Another Day," and "His End Was His Beginning," happened across the subject of her most recent book quite by accident. She read a biography of Harriet Tubman and was so impressed with the courage and nobility of this amazing fugitive slave woman who rescued over 300 slaves at the risk of her own life that she was determined to make a further study of her.

"I had absolutely no idea how that one book would change my plans," said Miss Buckmaster. "I was then doing work for the Reader's Digest and as I read I was so irresistibly drawn to know more about the subject that I stopped everything else and devoted myself utterly to it. I learned a phase of our

American history that is totally ignored, and as I went deeper and deeper into the research a picture of the South began to emerge based on court records, southern newspapers, letters, testimony of slave owners, documents, and it was amazing how all this bore utterly no relation to the South we are taught to accept, the South of Stephen Foster, of Moonlight and Roses.

"I was hungry for more material in the subject, but I discovered that nothing new had been printed since 1866 until this children's book on Harriet Tubman, 'The Railroad to Freedom.' My interest had been so stirred by these revelations that it drove me to some full time investigations. As I studied the records it occurred to me how little Americans actually know about one of the most dramatic periods of our history."

Now, after four years of intensive research during which time she travelled about extensively to interview persons and descendants of those involved in abolition work, and in which her Negro friends, students who have specialized in this period, have been of inestimable help, Miss Buckmaster has finally written her book. During these four years she has read well over 500 books, newspapers as well as private documents, and has lost count of the private papers, the letters and pamphlets which she has studied.

Constitution Atlanta, Georgia Romance in Africa

WALKING THE WHIRLWIND
by Brigid Knight, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York. 343 pp. \$2.75.

Pioneer Cape Town in 1808 knew hardship, struggle and uncertainty, for English and Dutch were striving for dominance. Warring Kaffirs were a constant menace as were the fickle elements of South Africa.

Despite these dangers Alison Harding determined to continue living at Ashenden, the estate left by her proud French mother and austere English father. She passionately loved this farm steeped in French traditions and apparent with English improvements. Greater than her passion for Ashenden, than her devotion to her children was Alison's love for her husband. Andrew — gambler, Lothario, gentleman farmer,

trader, and adventurer—had left England to escape the wrath of three women as well as the gallows which loomed inevitable, considering his assumed blame. Cognizant of rumors and facts, Alison lived bravely and fully and never feared the penalty which devotion might demand.

Howard Harding inherited the curse of Ashenden as well as the passion for this land. His worship for his mother blinded any understanding of his father's actions. Howard's tense, introspective character considered Rodney, his brother, an irresponsible Don Juan too closely patterned after his father. But Rodney lived his life intensely, boldly, and gallantly amid Dutch and English friendships — friendships which later accidentally caused his spectacular death.

Margaret possessed great beauty but, unlike her brothers, lived for surface satisfaction and unwittingly involved herself in numerous intrigues.

During the span in "Walking the Whirlwind" march three generations, English, Dutch, and Kaffirs influence these people as they struggle to build a united community. Diamond mining, trading, modernization, warfare, and expansion as lived in those early days are related with vigor and warmth. As the characters, romances, and adventures unfold, a deep appreciation, kinship, and understanding of this distant pioneer country is gained. "Walking the Whirlwind," Brigid Knight's first novel, was published in 1940 in England.

RUTH M. GREEN



BRIGID KNIGHT.
Author of "Walking the Whirlwind."

SOUTH IS CRITICIZED IN WPA PUBLICATION

JAN 1 1941

WASHINGTON—(A N P—Quoting from a WPA publication, "The Plantation South Today," interesting facts revealed about conditions in the southland continue to condemn practises in that section and point out in sharp criticism the conditions which have brought about the present situation. Says the report:

"Of the more than 1,000,000 rural families aided in the South in November, 1938, under general relief, WPA and farm security programs, it is estimated that about 600,000 included employable workers with farm backgrounds. Since an additional 400,000 with farm backgrounds who had applied for aid could not be employed by the WPA with the funds available, it is obvious that the magnitude of the rural relief problem in the South is far greater than the statistics of the case loads indicate.

"One of the greatest handicaps suffered by southern rural people is the lack of adequate institutions for promotion of general welfare. The region possesses so small a percentage of the nation's taxable wealth, and so large a percentage of the children that its resources are wholly inadequate to provide the advantages that children in other areas have. The southeastern farm population received 2.2 per cent of the nation's income in 1930, but it had to educate 13.4 per cent of the nation's children of school age. By every educational criterion the southern states as a group rank lowest in the nation. In an effort to farm intelligently, spending his limited income to the best advantage the average southern tenant farmer faces the handicap of inadequate education.

"Although its need is relatively greater, the South has not received as much federal aid per capita as most other sections. Low standards of living in the region have led to rigorous standards of acceptance for relief and small benefits per case."

New Masses

New York, N. Y.

Negro Prize Fighter

WALK HARD, TALK LOUD, by Len Zinberg. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50. DEC 17 1940

FOR several years Len Zinberg, a young white writer, has been producing short stories that reveal an acute and sympathetic interest in the Negro's problems. In his first novel, *Walk Hard, Talk Loud*, Mr. Zinberg tells the story of a Negro prize fighter. The author is far more successful than most writers who approach Negro life from the outside, even those who command more art (Ernest Hemingway, for example, from whom Zinberg has learned much).

Andy Whitman, a shoe-shine boy, becomes an apprenticed fighter after a boxing manager has seen a demonstration of his left-hand punch in a street brawl. Given good training, Andy progresses rapidly. The status of prize fighter opens up an avenue of escape from his narrow Negro life. He hopes to pound enough money out of the fight game to carry himself and his father to France or South America, where they will be free from race prejudice. When he falls in love with Ruth, a young Negro Communist, Andy broadens his escapist dream to include her.

Walk Hard, Talk Loud is the story of Andy's gradual awakening. First his hopes of becoming champion are dashed by race discrimination and an unfair fight-decision. He determines to fight just for the money, to become rich, and marry his girl. But he has not reckoned with his fate, symbolized in the person of a racketeer who controls boxing in New York. In human terms Zinberg shows that Andy's dream is utopian: there is no easy escape from a diseased social order, which Andy encounters in its most distorted, dehumanized form in Lou, the racketeer. Lou hates Andy because the boy is a Negro. To Andy, the racketeer is an ever-present reminder of that supreme moment of Jim Crow crisis when a Negro must decide either to affirm his manhood and face death, or prolong the crisis, back down, and live forever with a rankling sense of guilt. It is the ultimate moment of

frustration, in which all the violence generated by a lifetime of discrimination is set off by a trifle and becomes centered upon a single object. For Andy this object is Lou, and Lou is a killer; Andy knows when he is pounding Lou's face to a pulp that he is facing gangster's bullets. And no one is more surprised than Andy to discover that the presence of newspaper reporters kept Lou from killing him. Frustrated in his immediate revenge, the racketeer blacklists Andy from the fight game for life. When the prize fighter, attempting to get another manager, discovers the absolute power of the racketeer, his disillusionment is complete. DEC 17 1940

Andy's romanticism takes the hard, tough form offered by the fistic game with its big prizes. A sensitive boy, he reacts to the conditions of his life with violence, ready fists, and a hard chin. In contrast, Ruth is soft and tender. Yet it is Ruth who fills the emptiness when his dream bursts, and leads him to the only realistic solution of his problems.

Walk Hard, Talk Loud is an exciting first novel with plenty of action and suspense. Len Zinberg indicates how far a writer, whose approach to Negro life is uncolored by condescension, stereotyped ideas, and other faults growing out of race prejudice, is able to go with a Marxist understanding of the economic basis of Negro personality. That, plus a Marxist sense of humanity, carries the writer a long way in a task considered extremely difficult: for a white writer successfully to depict Negro character. Another element in the author's success is a technique which he has modified to his own use, that of the "hard-boiled" school. This technique, despite its negative philosophical basis, is highly successful in conveying the violent quality of American experience—a quality as common to Negro life as to the lives of Hemingway characters. While these varied elements have not yet reached a synthesis in Zinberg's style, they represent the enrichment of an American writing tradition and they make *Walk Hard, Talk Loud* well worth the reading. DEC 17 1940

RALPH ELLISON.

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

THE NEGRO WORKER IN NEW YORK CITY

THE WELFARE COUNCIL of New York

City has just published a pamphlet on "The Negro Worker in New York City," which was prepared in an interesting manner by Lester B. Granger under the direction of the Council's Committee on Negro Welfare of which Miss Dorothy Straus is chairman. The pamphlet emphasises that many of the problems that now beset the New York Negro are due to unemployment and urges the expansion of the job frontier for the Negro. It is also pointed out that no less than 50,000 Negroes are on the relief roles of the city and that this relief is paid for out of taxes, of which the city's share is \$20,000,000 annually. The obvious conclusion is that it is cheaper to provide work for such people than to maintain them on relief roles. FEB 22 1941

It is our hope that the Welfare Council will see to it that the pamphlet is distributed widely among the employers of labor throughout the city instead of among its members and friends as is usually the case, for it is the former class which is in position to do something about the problems.

Officers of the Welfare Council of New York City are: Alfred H. Schoellkopf, president; George MacDonald, Frederic B. Pratt and Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, vice presidents; Winthrop W. Aldrich, treasurer; Robert P. Lane, executive director; George J. Hecht, secretary; and James G. Blaine, chairman, Finance Committee. Henry W. Pope is secretary of the sub-committee on Negro Welfare.

8-1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

LIFE AND TIMES OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS — Written by Himself — Pathway Press, New York, N. Y.—\$5.00.

APR 12 1941

In observance of the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the public career of Frederick Douglass, the Pathway Press has published the Centenary Memorial Edition of Frederick Douglass' autobiography, which has been out of print for over a half century.

APR 12 1941

It is a most absorbing work depicting the first period of the struggle in which the race problem has involved the people of this country. The actual happenings which a real flesh and blood person passed through personally make excellent reading and give one a feeling that not only is this now historically a fact but also someone actually lived through the era. It is a story of the first struggles for freedom and social justice particularly pertinent again in our present time of crisis and social reconstruction.

His long identification with the cause of Anti-Slavery obscures from general view his participation in other public services. He took sides with land and labor reforms in England and Ireland while there on an anti-slavery campaign. He became one of the first advocates of Women's rights and suffrage, becoming a lifetime friend of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. He advocated Civil Rights legislation and free public education; even advocating as early as 1850 practical vocational education when he gave Harriet Beecher Stowe plans for founding an industrial trade school for Negro youth.

In his first twenty-three years of life he participated in all of the degradation and obscurity of being a slave through being a part of the lot belonging to Colonel Lloyd's plantation in Maryland. Here he gained first-hand knowledge of the good and evils of slavery. This was the part of his education which fitted him to be an outstanding member of the gang of which he was a part, a slave of superior mind and un-

daunted spirit. Here he gained his experience that fitted him to be the superior orator which he later became having power to move men by spoken word, to make men laugh or cry at his will. He had power of statement, wit, logic and humor. Here he gained the knowledge which aided him in ranking high as a writer; giving him the ability to edit newspapers, contribute to magazines and continue to turn out the great amount of good writing which he did.

APR 12 1941

He was a self-made man in every sense of the word. With hard study he educated himself. His range of reading was wide and extensive. He realized the fact, that one who is anxious to education himself may get that information outside of colleges. He knew that books, on every subject taught and discussed in college, may be bought anywhere.

Soon after his escape from Maryland to Massachusetts he started his career as a champion of anti-slavery. The beginning of of his interest and part in the movement started by taking part in small public meetings held by colored people. In these meetings he laid the foundation for his splendid career.

In the introduction to the First Edition written by George Ruffin, of Boston, in 1881, the finest summary of the life of Frederick Douglass has been achieved.

"Douglass was born a slave, he won his liberty; he is of Negro extraction, and consequently was despised and outraged; he has by his own energy and force of character commanded the respect of the nation; he was ignorant, he has, against law and by stealth entirely unaided, educated himself, he was poor, he was by honest toil and industry become rich and independent, so to speak; he a chattel slave of a hated and cruelly wronged race in the teeth of American prejudice and in face of nearly every kind of hindrance and drawback, has come to be one of the foremost orators of the age, with a reputation established on both sides of the Atlantic; a writer of power and elegance of expression; a thinker whose views are potent in controlling and shaping public opinion; a high officer in the National Government; a cultivated gentleman whose virtues as a husband, father and citizen are the highest honor a man can have."

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Autobiography Records Colorful Career of Mrs. Mary Church Terrell

A Colored Woman in a White World, by Mary Church Terrell. Preface by H. G. Wells (Washington, D. C.: Ransdell, Inc., 1941). Pp. 437. Price \$2.50.

APR 12 1941

The record of a woman who has dared to explore the world outside of the home and to live fully and creatively is certain to be a heroic story.

The account of the life of Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, "A Colored Woman in a White World", comes within that category. It reflects the heroism of a great woman—heroism born in the face of difficulties.

The story of Mrs. Terrell's life is unique—not because it is the autobiography of a woman for there are many of them—but rather, because it is the first full-length autobiography written by a Negro woman.

"A Colored Woman in a White World" has even more than this to bolster its claim for a place among the best literature of the day. It is an account of the struggle of Negro women for a place in the sun. It is also an account of some of the achievements of a minority group in the United States.

BEGAN CAREER

Mary Church Terrell began her career at a time when men were loud in their assertion that "woman's place is in the home". Any woman who sought a career in the social or political world was frowned upon even as late as the 1900's. A Negro woman in public life was a phenomenon unheard of at that time.

Mrs. Terrell's book presents a striking picture of what she calls "the double handicap" which Negro women must face. It is she says, the handicap of "race and sex".

APR 12 1941

BORN OF SLAVE PARENTS

Born in Memphis, Tenn., of slave parents shortly after the end of the Civil War, Mrs. Terrell has lived a zestful life, successfully combining a career embracing the literary, social, political, and educational realms.

Her parents sent the young Mary to southern Ohio to live. Here she received her early training and later she studied at Oberlin College, Oberlin. Fol-

lowing her graduation, she taught at Wilberforce University.

Her story goes on to give an account of a colorful life—studying and travelling abroad, her marriage to a young Harvard lawyer, Robert Herberton Terrell, her interest in woman's suffrage.

One of the highlights in her career has been her work as a member of the Board of Education in the District of Columbia. She was the first Negro woman to hold such a post.

The record of her life recalls her years as first president of the National Association of Colored Women and as honorary life president.

ARDENT CHAMPION

She has been an ardent champion of the Negro woman's rights and has pled her cause in many places. She represented the women of her race at the International Congress of Women in Berlin in 1904. She was the only American delegate to personally deliver a message in German at the International Congress of Women for Permanent Peace held in 1919 in Zurich, Switzerland.

APR 12 1941

In 1937, she journeyed to London to speak at the International Assembly of the World Fellowship of Faiths.

The preface to the book is written by H. G. Wells, who broke a precedent to write it. In the preface, he urges the readers to "turn over the pages of this plucky, distressful woman's naive story of the broadening streak of violence, insult, and injustice in your country, through which she has been compelled to live her life".

The book should be required reading for young and old alike.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

LAND TENURE POLICIES AT HOME AND ABROAD, by Henry William Spiegel, Ph.D. Published by The University of North Carolina Press; 171 pages, \$3.

THIS IS A BOOK that "presents in a coherent form the exposition and analysis of land tenure policies which have been developed at home and elsewhere in recent years."

Some of the subjects discussed are objectives of land policy, public control over land, the legal background, land inheritance, tenure of forest land, collective action, farm credit and farm tenancy policy.

This account of present-day land tenure policies, both in Europe and in America, is a book of value for any student of the subject.

ALL IN A LIFETIME, by Frank Buck with Ferrin Fraser. Illustrated. Published by Robert M. McBride & Co.; 277 pages, \$2.75.

THERE MAY BE some who are just a little tired of Frank Buck. He has bobbed up in so many places. At the movie. At the circus. In the sideshow. At the bookstore. All over the place. Then those persons needn't bother to read this biography about the gentleman who for so long has brought 'em back alive.

But there are others who like to read about strange lands and strange animals and who enjoy good tales, even though they suspect the tale may be seasoned a bit here and there to make it more enjoyable.

In this most recent volume by and about Mr. Buck we learn of Buck, the man. We see him as a boy out in Texas. Then as a bellhop in Chicago. We are with him when he meets famous men and women. We follow him through his short time in a music publishing house and again as he booked vaudeville acts.

Then he wins enough money in one night of gambling to stake him to a trip of South America. He comes back bringing some valuable birds which he sells to the zoos. He has had a good time and made good money. At last he has found his calling.

From then on the book chiefly is a record of expeditions into the jungle, tales of experiences of all kinds of wild animals, and anecdotes of the jungle and the far-off places Mr. Buck has visited.

If you have enjoyed Mr. Buck's books in the past you will enjoy this one. Actually, it is very much like all the others except that this

Noted Woman Educator Author of Recently Published Curricula Study

APR 19 1941

An interesting study of the subject matter relating to Negroes and taught in selected institutions for the training of teachers in this country has recently been prepared by Dr. Edna Meade Colson, director, department of education at Virginia State College.

The study, entitled: "An Analysis of the Specific References to Negroes in Selected Curricula for the Education of Teachers," was made by Dr. Colson as partial fulfillment of the work required for her doctorate and published by the Bureau of Publications of Teachers College, Columbia University.

APR 19 1941
The book, which is written with a clear, precise style, includes a number of tables which present graphically the findings of the study.

The study begins with a presentation of the social, economic, political, and philosophical problems which have arisen out of the presence of Negroes in the United States, and the assumption that the educational process is the best way of working out a solution to these problems.

With this as a background, the author formulates definite questions regarding what is taught about Negroes in institutions training teachers, how are the teachers prepared to handle these materials so as to develop understandings of the problems, and what subject matter materials are available in libraries, etc.

The study reveals a lack of provision for securing information on present-day problems relating to Negroes and for deliberation upon these problems.

To quote the author: "In history the emphasis is largely on the Negro of the past. In economics, many colleges report no references whatever to the economic aspects of problems created by the presence of Negroes. In geography 'Negro labor' is the topic of repeated course references, but the bibliographies give little evidence of materials suitable to the development of a knowledge of geographic or economic principles... Only in the field of sociology is there evidence of a comprehensive treatment of community and national problems growing out of the presence of Negroes." APR 19 1941

Six recommendations by the author complete the study. Among others, she lists curriculum provision for the study of these community and national problems; that the subject matter of history, economics, and other subjects as taught in the teachers colleges be reorganized in such a way as to include these facts about Negroes which bear on present-day problems.

Book Published APR 19 1941



Dr. Edna Meade Colson, director, Department of Education of Virginia State College, whose book, "An Analysis of the Specific References to Negroes in Selected Curricula for the Education of Teachers," has recently been published by the Bureau of Teachers College, Columbia University.

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

CHARLOTTE'S SINGULAR MIND

Recently W. J. Cash, associate of The Charlotte News, took the mind of the South apart to see what made it tick in its pleasantly unique tempo. The book is a notable contribution to southern letters because it is so patently sympathetic yet spares not the chiding rod.

APR 29 1941

Cash's home town is in travail at present over the question of Sunday blue laws. Charlotte is one of those odd anachronisms which still clings to the quaint but uncomfortable idea that Sunday should be a day of sackcloth and ashes instead of one of relaxation and peace.

The neighboring city of Norfolk, Va., takes a look at the Charlotte predicament and finds that time and the needs of national defense will resolve all things, even including Charlotte's predilection for the quaint and uncomfortable. The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot lectures Charlotte and the world as follows:

APR 29 1941

"Charlotte, North Carolina's metropolis, is newly besieged by Sin. Always, in the past, even when weaker cities gave way to re-pealers, Sunday golfers and revolutionists, this citadel of dryness, fundamentalism, Sabbatarianism and hell-fire, stood fast by the good life sternly lived. Lately, the the-ater-men have been pressing for the right to run the movie houses on Sunday, and The News, an afternoon paper subversively sympathetic with the idea that the Sabbath was made for man and not vice versa, has been poking fun at the town's singular Puritanism, but the conscript fathers at the City Hall have refused to budge.

"For a city in the 100,000 class which is the capital of a large Piedmont trading area to boot, the Charlottean psyche is something to wonder at. Norfolk, in its loutish way, has found it beyond all plumbing. The job is ready made for one of its own citizens — the very Mr. W. J. Cash who has just psychoanalyzed The Mind of the South. By the time the present sieze of Charlotte by the latter-day offspring of Sodom and Gomorrah runs its course, Mr. Cash (who is associate editor of the wicked News) should have the materials for a bright postscript to his all-Southern opus. APR 29 1941

"Our own guess is that the new siege will terminate in the capitulation of the Citadel of Puritanism to the sinful multitude which desires Sunday movies. Sunday sports and

even Sunday beer. For the besiegers have now been reinforced by the defense program. Not directly, of course, but nevertheless potentially. Charlotte has suddenly emerged as the seat of a United States Army air force concentration. Thousands of troops will throng its streets during liberty weekends and demand recreation and entertainment. Already the commanding general of the Third Air Force, speaking at the dedication of the city's new airport, has dropped the hint that if the boys are not provided with clean entertainment on Sunday, they will be 'hanging around the street corners' and may become a 'source of trouble.'

"It is only a step from hanging around street corners to filtering into the back alleys. That will alarm the conscript fathers and will move them, we think, to reflect that if 'Open Sundays' have not noticeably corrupted the life of the 65 North Carolina towns, large and small, that have already gone 'continental,' they can hardly damage the robust virtue of the State's metropolis.

"As a sister-city which has gone through somewhat the same descent from rigid Sabbatarianism to a large tolerance of Sunday as a day of recreation and enjoyment, Norfolk hastens to assure Charlotte that Sunday movies and Sunday sports are wholly reconcilable with the preservation of a high degree of civic virtue. Let it cast out fear and take a chance on the essential decency of recreation-hungry human nature. It is just about as decent on Sunday as any other day." APR 29 1941

8-1941
New York Times
New York, N. Y.

The Tale of a Texas Warrior

Colonel Thomason's Vivid Story of a Civil War Chaplain Who
Fought With Bible and Sword

LONE STAR PREACHER. Being a Chronicle of the Acts of Praxiteles Swan, M. E. Church South Sometime Chaplain, Fifth Texas Regiment, Confederate States Provisional Army. By Lieut. Col. John A. Thomason, United States Marine Corps. Illustrated by the author. 296 pp. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.75.

By **HERSCHEL BRICKELL**

JOHAN A. THOMASON is a practicing soldier who can both write and draw, as nobody needs to be told who has read his work in the magazines or who knows his books, including the famous biography of Jeb Stuart, which quite easily takes rank among the best of all the lives of Confederate officers. In it, Colonel Thomason found a subject ready to his hand, and a full-length portrait emerged that will never have to be done again. Praxiteles Swan, fighting parson, is not exactly the historical character that Jeb Stuart was; in fact, he is fictitious, or at least synthetic. Colonel Thomason explains in his introduction that he made his hero out of two early Methodist saints from Texas, retaining, beyond a doubt, the best features of each.

But if Chaplain Swan isn't in the history books, he is at least touched completely into life in these pages, which begin with his departure from Virginia on his way westward, the curses of his proud uncle, Colonel Pelham, still ringing in his ears. Arrived in Texas, he at once falls in love with a girl named Jael, all red-headed six feet of him, and whips a couple of bullies who are his rivals.

Prax and Jael flourished and multiplied, with Prax constantly busy fighting the devil, or some

of his local representatives, and waxing in grace and voice. (He had the kind of voice, they said, that could be heard at a whisper half a mile on a clear day.) Then came the war, and, naturally, Prax, Old Testament prophet that he was, cried ha-ha, like the war horse. Jael wasn't named Jael for nothing, so she told him to go, with her blessing, and was sorry she couldn't go, too, because she had just been reading a novel called "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

So Prax became chaplain of a Texas outfit that was sent to fight in Virginia, and all surviving accounts say that there never was a harder lot of first-class fighting men in all history than these Texans—Hood's Texicans, people called them. They fought all over the place, at Sharpsburg and Gettysburg and many another bloody field. They fought under Longstreet and Lee; they moved into Chickamauga, and said later that they had won it.

Of course, the first time Prax got into a battle he forgot his Bible and grabbed a musket. From then on he was an officer, carrying both Bible and sword, and ordering his men into the fight with great mouth-filling quotations from Isaiah and the other prophets who understood war; once he was nearly killed, and scared almost to death, besides, when his dead horse fell on him and a Confederate battery shelled the position, taking the lives of many men in gray uniforms. This humbled Prax a little.

Colonel Thomason keeps Prax in the center of the picture and makes him very human and very likable. Battles start moving again under his magic touch, and the reader sees and feels every-

thing that goes on, smells the smoke and even the blood, knows the anxiety of troops waiting to move up, senses the turn of the tide toward victory or defeat. At Gettysburg, the Texans knew they were waiting too long, and later found out that their beloved Longstreet had disobeyed Lee's orders. Later still, they were to see the two men meet and clasp hands in the last review of the Army of Northern Virginia, a spectacle out of which Colonel Thomason makes something to wring the heart.

Mars Robert is here, too, on that close-coupled gray horse named Traveler, and Stonewall Jackson on his sad-looking little sorrell, standing three-legged and dejected in the midst of battle, and old Pete on his strawberry roan; even the horses come back to life and are a part of the men who rode them, as indeed they were.

The story of Praxiteles Swan is told in a series of sketches, which appeared first in The Saturday Evening Post, and since each had to stand alone there, each has a certain amount of repetition, inevitable in a collection of this sort. It is also true that at times the writing has more facility than depth, but with these objections disposed of, there is still a welcome residue of entertainment and edification, of wholesome and unashamed emotion and sentiment and humor.

Those who hold to the theory that books ought to be about something, to which I subscribe most heartily, will find that this one is about men who fought like demons and endured almost indescribable hardships willingly and cheerfully because they believed in something; Colonel

Thomason quotes a Mississippi soldier as saying to a Northern officer who had captured him, and who had said that the North wasn't really interfering with any of his rights, "But maybe I've got rights I haven't heard tell about, an' if so, I'm fighting for them, too."

There is a lesson for our times in "Lone Star Preacher." It isn't a tract, or it would be less delightful reading, but it requires no imagination at all to see that the armies we are now engaged in making will fight a lot better (if they have to fight) if they go into battle believing in something. The Greeks have a word for it.

Telegraph

Macon, Georgia

South
JAN 5 - 1941
Carolinians

GREAT SOUTH CAROLINIANS, by Helen Kohn Hennig. University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill. 369 pp. \$1.

Mrs. Hennig undertakes her task with the idea that biography is history; and while she knows she must get a great deal of biography, or the story of many lives to tell the full history of a state, she has given only twenty biographies in this book. She says, however, another volume of other names is coming.

The stories are too short to give a reader much idea of the big issues and important events in the lives of her characters. The fight John Caldwell Calhoun made to save agriculture from its present-day predicament, and to prevent the making of multi-millionaires of industrialists and paupers of farmers could hardly be explained fully and satisfactorily in the short space she gives to the whole career of Mr. Calhoun. Therefore, abbreviated biography cannot be satisfactory as history. It is at best only an epitome of conflicts, without touching the causes and the principles involved.

School teachers will be thrilled with the book, especially those in South Carolina; because it is an ideal text to arouse those who ought to become interested in history.

The names of Drayton, Bull West, Sumter, Marion, Pickens, Rutledge, Elliott, Calhoun, Poinsett, Thornwell, Myddleton, Heyward and others have been honored

as highly in Georgia, in the naming of counties, communities, institutions, parks and capitals as any that started in Georgia.

Much in the book will give an idea of social life and political struggles in the grand old state.

—EUGENE ANDERSON.

Sparta, N. C., Times
January 2, 1941

**New Book Tells
Of Negro Life
On S. C. Isles**

Mason Crum's new book, Gullah, is said to be more than just a story, it is an introduction to the social history of the Gullah Negroes who inhabit the decadent plantations of the sea islands and the coastal region of South Carolina.

Probably representing the purest African stock in America today, they present an interesting study of the tie-back of the modern negro with his borebears of slavery days. The curious dialect, quaint philosophy and spiritual experiences of the Gullah Negroes are amply characterized in the story of Gullah by the writer's extensive knowledge of his subject. Born in Rowesville, S. C., a small village on the coastal plain, Mr. Crum is personally familiar with the culture and traditions of the negroes of the South. He holds degrees from Harvard, Vanderbilt University, University of South Carolina and Wofford College, and has been a member of the faculty of the Department of Religion of Duke University for the past ten years.

Georgia Coastal Negroes' Life Traced From Slavery in Book

'Drums and Shadows' Represents Three Years of Research in Savannah Area

Negroes living today on Georgia land their forebears worked as slaves can in occasional instances remember grandparents who were born in Africa, and "Drums and Shadows," which contains "survival studies among the Georgia Coastal Negroes," is a valuable correlation of current habits of thought and practice with those introduced into America through slave trade.

The book, just published by the University of Georgia Press, is the work of the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project, Works Project Administration. It represents more than three years of research among Negro populations in Savannah and outlying communities—in the Old Fort district of the city, and in such settlements as Sunbury, Darien, Sapelo Island, and St. Marys.

Slavery, introduced in Virginia in 1619, was banned when the colony of Georgia was established in 1733, and legalized in 1750, as Mary Granger, district supervisor of the project, points out in her introduction to "Drums and Shadows."

In 1798 Georgia prohibited slave importation directly from Africa, and in 1808 the Federal Constitution made African slave trade unlawful, but "the favorable topography of the Georgia coastline encouraged smuggling. Consequently illegal slave traffic flourished in this region until 1858, when the slave ship Wanderer landed its final human cargo on Georgia soil."

The remoteness of coastal plantations, and the ease with which Negroes, freed from slavery, could maintain themselves by farming and fishing near where they were born, served to preserve until today the societies and the traditions which were created by African-born Americans.

"Drums and Shadows" is incidentally an interesting comment of the skill of researchers in overcoming reticences they encountered. It is equally revealing in its reflection of reaction to an undertaking of the Federal Government. Obviously the Negroes, however remote they might be from the current of modern life, were well disposed and willing to co-operate with an enterprise of the national administration.

Conjure, as introduced into America from Africa, and as it still flourishes today, handicrafts derived from the same source, be-

liefs in spirits, witches, ceremonies, exorcism and folklore are all assembled in "Drums and Shadows," presenting a dramatic relationship between the tabu of the African jungle and the superstition of modern living.

**Telegraph
Macon, Georgia
The Negro's Progress**

JAN 5 - 1941
FLOWING THROUGH the Story of the Negro in Agriculture, by Edwin Ware Hullinger. William Morrow & Co., New York. 60 pp., \$1.50.

Photographs and illustrations consume much of the space in this short story; but the general effect is encouraging. The theory of Booker T. Washington is justified by the interest the Negro is taking in the federal government's efforts to help him to be more and have more. In Dr. Washington's book about the Negroes around Tuskegee, he showed that the hardest job in Negro uplift was to get the race to want things. They had done without so long, they had become accustomed to it. What was the use of the steps at the front door, when a block of wood could serve the purpose? Why put in window glass when wooden shutters were easier to get?

Hullinger's book shows that Negroes are becoming more hopeful and ambitious, and are willing to learn better methods. They take interest in health clinics and sanitation; are becoming better housekeepers in their own homes, and are responding to the agents' efforts to teach them how to conserve the things that have heretofore been going to waste around them.

Contrary to general belief, most of the Negroes of America are still making a living on the farm; and are producing 47 per cent of the country's agricultural products. They are being trained to have some regard for the soil, and to improve it by cover crops, rotation, terracing, contouring and scientific furrowing.

Gardening is also being taught,

and interest is being aroused in proper diets. It has been said for the past century that one reason the South became enslaved to cotton was that the Negro knew no other kind of farming, and as he was the worker on the land, nothing else could be grown extensively in the Southern country. Mr. Hullinger's little story shows that the Negro is learning something else, and that he is learning well.

—EUGENE ANDERSON.
Savannah, Ga. Press
January 9, 1941

Crying Huckster Typical Subject of Gullah Study

"DRUMS AND SHADOWS" AUTHENTIC TREATMENT OF NEGRO CULTURE

The shambling huckster crying his wares, believing in conjure and sincerely cherishing a memory of spirits and ghosts he has encountered, is the typical subject of the new book about Savannah negroes—"Drums and Shadows."

Just published by the University of Georgia Press in Athens, "Drums and Shadows" adds a distinct and important contribution to regional Southern literature as well as to anthropological research.

The study, a series of interviews with Gullah and Geechee negroes, was prepared after several years of research, writing and editing by the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project. It was directed by Miss Mary Granger, supervisor.

Beautifully illustrated with photographs by Malcolm and Muriel Bell, Savannah photographers, the book presents an artistic as well as an authoritative summary of the native cultural life of Savannah negroes, who make up nearly half of the city's population.

Those things that have given to Southern literature its character and its traditional provincial flavor are contained between the covers of this original work. While it has already been hailed by Ogburn, Herskovits and Embree as sociologically important, it is destined also to have a place beside the work of Gonzales, Stoney and other writers of the coastal negro.

The phonetics of Gullah dialect have been minutely arranged for easy reading, and every reference to previously published work has been carefully supplemented with a thorough bibliography, which retraces the survival customs of the negro through the observations of Livingstone in South Africa back to William Bosman's description of the Gold, Slave, and Ivory Coasts of Guinea, first published in 1705.

The names and addresses of informants in Yamacraw, Old Fort, Tatenville, Pin Point, Harris Neck, Frogtown and Currytown, Tin City, Sandfly, Sunbury and other nearby coastal areas are given in the book's appendix to lend further authenticity to the study.

A glossary of unfamiliar terms is also included to explain such allusions as "de big raid," for War Between the States; "juba haltuh," for water bucket; "hoodoo," "conjuh" and "rootin," for the casting of spells and evil charms.

Besides its interest for the general reader, especially the Savannah reader, "Drums and Shadows" will command the attention of the scholar, according to Guy B. Johnson of the University of North Carolina, who says in the book's foreword:

"... It has combed over a strategic area, has discovered clues, has raised problems, and thus made easier the way of any cultural anthropologist who might want to follow and attempt a definitive scientific study of the question of African heritages and influences in American civilization."

The book preserves in its pages the folklore of the Gullah and the Geechee negro, two cultural groups of descendants of Africans brought to America as slaves to work the plantations of South Carolina and Georgia and on the "golden isles" along the coast.

The name Gullah, according to the authors, is derived from the term "Golla," which was prefixed to many of the given names of original African slaves imported in this section. The name Geechee comes, of course, from association with the Ogeechee river.

Significant among the particular events noted in the book is the superstition that surrounded the so-called Bo-Cat murder at Pin Point in 1932. Bo-Cat was the nickname of a negro Limerick De Lancy, who is said to have killed his wife, Catherine, and dropped her body in the deep waters at Hell Gate on a Friday, the thirteenth of May.

"Drums and Shadows" is notable not only for its recording of the survival customs of a vanishing cultural type, for its indisputable contributions to sociology and to literature, but also for the manifestation of an enlightened view of the Southern negro.

Sub-titled "Survival Studies Among the Georgia Coastal Negroes," the book contains 273 pages and sells for \$3. It is handsomely and sturdily bound, with an attractive jacket and cover design. It is the latest publication of the University of Georgia Press.

H. W.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

THE BOOKSHELF

JAN 13 1941
By V. ELIZABETH BROWN
Assistant Librarian, Auburn Branch

BELOW ARE TWO human interest stories which the whole nation is reading. Two of colored America's leading authors have written this time the story of their lives. Says Langston Hughes, "Literature is a big sea. I let down my nets and pulled. What I caught

was amazing." So ends this moving and charming autobiography. THE BIG SEA by Langston Hughes.

As you will know, Langston Hughes was in the center of the "Negro renaissance" when it was a fad for a young Negro of art and entertainment to have as his patron a wealthy white person. "He has lived warmly, adventurously, and he has lived among interesting people." He has taught English in Mexico, waited tables and cooked in Paris, served as a busboy in a Washington hotel where he was befriended by Vashel Lindsay, and all the while he was writing.

JAN 9 1941
In DUSK OF DAWN W. E. DuBois takes us from his boyhood in New England where he grew up in the tolerant, provincial atmosphere of Great Barrington, Mass., to Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, where for the first time he encountered Jim Crow cars, public disdain, and insult for Negroes on the street.

We watch his education at Harvard where his doctor's thesis, "The Suppression of the Slave Trade," became the first volume in the Harvard Historical Studies. He spent two years traveling about Europe and in studying at the Universities of Paris and Berlin. Fourteen years were spent at Atlanta University where he "produced his monumental series of studies of the American Negro, covering Negro mortality, urbanization efforts among Negroes for social betterment, Negroes in business, The Negro common school, the Negro church, Negro crime, the health and physique of Negroes and related subjects. It was at Atlanta also that the controversy between DuBois and Booker T. Washington developed.

Dr. DuBois became the Director of Publications and Research for the NAACP and editor of the Crisis, whose pages under his editorship have borne the first published work of many distinguished contemporary Negro writers.

We note his successful fight

during the World War to have Negro officers trained and put in command of Negro troops, and his fight against lynching, as well as work on the Scottsboro case.

DUSK OF DAWN is the history of a native son, a native son with a notable career of letters and scholarship, who was for fifty years a valorous crusader for the rights of the American Negroes and who sees in "the dusk of his

days the dawn of a new and better existence for his people."

8-1941

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

BOOK REVIEW

(By Louise Glass)

THE NAZI PLAN FOR NEGROES

(By Hans Habe in The Nation—
March 1). APR 17 1941

Upon reading this article you will probably remark "That's just about what I expected"—especially if you have been watching the progress of Nazism these last eight or ten years.

Hitler makes it clear that he does not want Germans to regard the Negroes as enemies—only as slaves. He does not want Negroes to regard Germans as enemies—only as their masters. Negroes must realize that their mission in the world is to do the rough hard work—nothing else. If they do that, there will be no trouble at all between Nazis and Negroes.

Segregation such as we do not know today will be strictly enforced. Negroes will receive no pay for work. These plans are to be in force throughout the world, wherever the Negro may be found, regardless of his education or anything else.

Quite a number of Negroes are saying that Hitler can't make our lot any worse than it is anyhow. Can we imagine a Marian Anderson, a Dr. Carver, a Joe Louis in a Nazi-dominated world?

All races, including our own race, have been imperialistic. They have robbed and exploited weaker races and weaker members of their own race. But little by little the world has been breaking the shackles of slavery. APR 17 1941

Before we conclude that Nazi despotism is no worse than American despotism, it might be well to read Hans Habe's article in the Nation.

There may be times when the stars and stripes look tattered and dingy, but they symbolize more hope and progress than we can see in the swastika. —(Louise Glass) APR 17 1941

Here Is What Negroes Can Expect

"Hitler and the Nazis are now busy operating a 'Hate School' against Negroes throughout the world. Courses in the 'Hate School' are formally organized and taught regularly to classes of German soldiers and civilians. Major Nazi theories taught in these courses are: 1. Negroes belong to an inferior race

whose place must be fixed by the white 'master race.' 2. The free choice of trades and professions by Negroes leads to social assimilation. The occupations of the black colonial peoples and their function in the labor process of the 'new order' will therefore be entirely determined by the Germans. 3. Intermarriage between whites and blacks of half-breeds and whites is forbidden. According to the Nuremberg racial law, sexual intercourse between the members of the two races is subject to sanctions including the death penalty. 4. Persons belonging to a race other than the white Aryan race will have no active forbidden access to railways, street-cars, restaurants, motion pictures, and all public establishments. Special conveyances and public establishments will be created for them in both Germany and in occupied territories. 6. Members of inferior races are not allowed to join the National Socialist Party or its subsidiary organizations. Nor can they serve in the army. They must, however, serve in labor battalions."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Down in the Mississippi Delta

MAY 4 - 1941
BLACK BAYOU. By Idwal Jones.
280 pp. New York: Duell, Sloan
& Pearce, Inc. \$2.50.

THE protagonist of this novel is not a person but a personality—the great estate Egremont in the delta of the Mississippi on Black Bayou. The big plantation with its white Doric-columned mansion, its Negro cottages, its acres of sugar cane and lush marsh lands and moss-hung cypresses dominates the story as a powerful entity. The importance of Egremont—its life, its well-being—overshadows that of the people who work on it. Egremont is even more important than its owners, the Tones. Idwal Jones does a masterly job of not only telling you but convincing you of this. MAY 4 - 1941

The early generations of Tones were Bretons, whose strength and will built up the great plantation of Egremont. With Bonamy Tone the pioneer spirit petered out. He was a scholar who shut himself up in his library and left the management of the estate to his loyal friends, the Egans—doctors and men of standing. When Bonamy died he left the estate for thirty years in the guardianship of Dr. Egan. Only after that period was it to revert to the supervision of Captain Hosea Tone, a domineering hard-drinking Tone, who valued Egremont only for its income. MAY 4 - 1941

The Egans had installed as overseer of the estate a capable young man and a protégé of theirs, Rishey Aubain. Rishey was a thoroughly typical product of Egremont. As a child he had lived on the estate. Orphaned, he had been picked up by old Père Espinola and lived with him on his house-raft in the swamps, learning all the

shrewdest tricks of trapping and poaching. When Papa Espinola fell overboard, full to the neck of gin, and never came up again, young Rishey was taken in hand by Dr. Egan and sent to an agricultural college, to return as the able and understanding overseer of Egremont's cane fields and its swamps. He knew the Acadians—Poleon, Père Roulet, Ruiz—and how they lived in their arks and house-rafts, trapped in pirogues and were a part of the muskrat swamp—for he had been one of them. And from his college years he had learned the methods of producing the best sugar cane from the black, mucky fields.

When Captain Tone returned to take active charge, and the Egans gave up their stewardship, everybody felt change in the air—Dr. Egan, Rishey, Mr. Caleb (the pious and nautical head of the estate store), the black butler and house servants, and the trappers from the musquash swamps. None of them liked it. And their forebodings were well founded. The new regime bore hardest on the trappers, for Captain Tone had no respect for their vested rights in the swamps and was ready to turn them to the use that would bring in the biggest return, by draining and planting them in cane. The struggle between Tone and the trappers is the theme of the story. Rishey's first loyalty was not to Captain Tone but to Egremont, though his sympathies were with the Cajun swamp-dwellers. In himself he exemplified the field of struggle, particularly difficult for him because of his attraction to the daughter of Poleon, whose loyalty was all for the trappers and who felt no duty to Captain Tone or Egremont.

Idwal Jones has lived in various parts of the country and of the world, but his "Black Bayou"

seems as familiar and sympathetic with Louisiana plantation and swamp life as if he, like Rishey, had been born to it. Vastly entertaining is his compact and meaty description of life where the "tepid air was rank with the scent of magnolias, of slime, and broth of decaying roots and fungus," where the old house never, under the strongest sun, lost its musty, ancient smell. The strong struggle for supremacy between plantation and trappers, culminated in a tremendously impressive flood scene, a chapter not readily forgotten. In it Rishey's as well as Egremont's future is determined. MAY 4 - 1941

The picture of the Cajun trappers is splendidly and economically drawn—these salty, free men who kept the patois, the tricks of trapping and hunting, that their fathers had brought with them from Nova Scotia. Rishey, Dr. Egan, Mr. Caleb and Captain Tone are given the stamp of definite character with few words and almost cold impartiality. But they are all limned in their relationship to Egremont. And the characterization of that great, almost feudal, estate is the prime object and excellent achievement of "Black Bayou."

BEATRICE SHERMAN.

New Catholic History Textbook Tells True Facts About Negroes In America

APR 8 - 1941

Southerner Writes Complaint; Says Too Much Praise Of Race

APR 8 - 1941

NEW YORK—(ANP)—More than 10,000 copies were sold within the first 10 days following the publication of a new textbook on American history and civics in which the Negro is treated more favorably and is being used in all parochial schools in Brooklyn, according to the Bruce Publishing company publishers of the volume. Designed for the elementary schools in America: Land of Achievement," has been prepared anonymously by the Sisters of Mercy of the Brooklyn community.

APR 8 - 1941

Interspersed throughout this narrative of America from reconstruction days to the New Deal are sections dealing with the multiple disadvantages with which the Negro citizen has been forced to contend. Catholic leaders who have long believed that one of the best ways to eradicate the blight of racism is to bring the teachings of interracial justice to the schools are apparently receiving the textbook with warm approval.

APR 8 - 1941

In the book's treatment of the Negro, the subject material has been woven into the warp of the text rather than segregated to an all-inclusive chapter or two. At various points and in several ways it contrasts the growth of American prosperity with the paucity of the Negro's reward. It speaks of some of the Negro's accomplishments and leaders with specific detail given to the lives of Booker T. Washington and Dr. George Washington Carver, famous Tuskegeens.

The work of such religious orders as the Josephite Fathers, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the Jesuits, Benedictines, Capuchins, Franciscans, Dominicans and others interested in furthering the progress of the Negro is explained.

APR 8 - 1941

According to the publishers, copies of the book have been sent

out in great numbers to many parts of the country with the hope of stimulating added interest. One letter from a southerner is said to have been received by the author in which the writer complained that too much praise had been accorded the Negro.

Because of the wide initial demand, another edition is expected to be run off soon.

BOOKS

Newsweek

Dayton, Ohio

Plantation Empire at War

APR 28 1941

Idwal Jones' *BLACK BAYOU* is a rich and thrilling tale of a Louisiana feudal baron's last-ditch stand. As anyone who has ever read one of this writer's jewel-like stories knows, the man is an impressionist painter in words. This novel is a distillate of bayou-country atmosphere: the gleam of heavy silver in darkened plantation halls, the whiff of white mule on a trapper's breath, and the slither of a bateau through liana-lung marshes.

Capt. Hosea Tong, devoted Bourbon drinker and last descendant of a Breton adventurer who had founded the great sugar plantation of Egremont, returns home after the 30-year absence stipulated in the will of his great-uncle. He runs straight into trouble, first incurring the hostility of his overseer, who had saved the plantation from ruin, then colliding with the tough Cajun trappers who lived in "arks" in the bayous and hunted muskrats for a thin living. The struggle between the big house and the trappers develops complications when the Cajun steward of Egremont falls in love with a wild daughter of the swamps and finds his loyalties divided. Then Nature takes the conflict out of everyone's hands and settles it in her own fashion. (*BLACK BAYOU*, 280 pages. Doubleday, Sloan & Pearce, New York, \$2.50.)

APR 28 1941

Age-Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"So geographers in Africa maps. With savage pictures fill their gaps. And o'er unhabitable downs Place elephants for want of towns."

But there are nearly as many towns as elephants in the Africa of today. Out this week in a rich jacket, full of pictures and big print, crammed with the travel talk of one who takes an Indies-wealth of old experience and young enthusiasm with him on his travels, is James Saxon Childers' new book. Another continent goes on the list of ones to which he has turned his persevering and attractive light, a continent called "dark" but which he proves absorbingly is not. "Mumbo Jumbo, Esquire," is the title of this new Childers book, with a more revealing subtitle, "A Book About the Two Africas." The two are the one of jungles, wierd rites, wild animals and careening cannibals which most of us have read about and another of air-conditioned trains, night clubs, skyscrapers, country clubs, paved highways and profit on investment which hardly any of us know.

Mr. Childers has put into this book all that he has become in course of writing all of his other books. The result is a personality on wheels, rolling up and down a continent to the tune of sharp-sighted and engaging comment, colorful observation, eloquent reaction, comprehensive remembering and the sort of sophistication which especially appeals to Americans, namely, the one which in spite of familiar noises isn't sophistication at all but rather a charming lack of it.

The timeliness of the book comes not only from the fact that it is about a land that is being fought over but also from the fact that the land likely to be so important when the fighting is done. Science and civilization have come already to Africa, but they will come more with the world reconstructions that must follow the war. None of us who would be students of these times can fail to study the great continents of Africa and South America, and the study becomes a pleasure indeed, and a blessed escape, when professors like Mr. Childers are in charge.

To Tommy McFarland, Jr., immensely self-possessed and informed 14-year-old who will represent this city as its own Quiz Kid on the nationwide program, to runner-up Betty Hawkins, whose intelligence multiplies much natural beauty, and to their talented fellow finalists, Tarver Rountree, Anthony Rizzo and Jewell Alexander, greetings from the judges who judged them on the Alabama Theater stage Saturday evening under Mr. Pizitz's sponsorship! The judges want them to know that the judges are glad not to have had to try to answer the questions themselves. The judges are glad, too, that the contestants are too young to have to be met in any existing field of competition by the judges.

There is a great difference between intelligence and information. Some very well informed people are not very intelligent. They remember better than they think. What impressed the judges about Birmingham's Quiz Kid finals Saturday night was that the thinking was as good as the remembering, the intelligence as fine as the information. Filling your head up with things isn't enough now, and never was. A head is a factory, not just a storage bin.

Listening to the much hissing and some cheering which greets Charles Lindbergh in the March of Time feature at the Alabama this week, it seems to us all over again that America's present treatment of him is a proof rather than a disproof of our democracy. The right to hiss him is surely as great and as democratic as his own right to speak freely. With a few soundly criticized exceptions, Mr. Lindbergh has en-

joyed the fullest and best facilities of this country for making known his views. In making them known his sincerity and courage are obvious and his voice and appearance so attractive that he must win many to his "cause." Yet the country against whose vital interest most of us believe him to be talking is loyal enough to its own law and spirit to let him talk on. That is as it should be. But it makes silly the antics of those who have persuaded themselves he is not being treated fairly merely because he is being given a good American hiss when he speaks freely.

We respect Lindbergh in spite of his awful error. We respect the lovers of free speech who are so unnecessarily demanding it now in Lindbergh's behalf. But we do not respect those who in their secret hearts agree with Lindbergh but, lacking the courage to say so, make loud noises about free speech and giving the opposition a chance to be heard.

Pity the poor commencement speakers as they go forth this fortnight to tell the young men and young women of this country what's what, why, and what to do about it! The wise commencement speaker will use the experience to his own benefit by learning things from the young men and the young women themselves. Providing always that the young men and the young women are really young in the sense of being capable of a hopefulness, determination, imagination and ingenuity, a spirit of adventure and a knack of unreasonable laughter which have been ironed out of their elders.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Pages from Foster's Life

A Negro Hobo Dies

MAR 7—1941

In the latter part of 1900 I hoboed my way into Jacksonville, Florida, from Tampa. I had been in Havana, Cuba. Some time before, in the North, a doctor told me I had contracted tuberculosis as a result of my several years' work in a type foundry and various fertilizer plants. So I pulled up stakes and hit the road, determined not to die without a fight for health. I went steerage to Havana and knocked around there a couple of weeks until my few dollars were gone. No job was to be had and I worked my way by steamer to Tampa. From there I beat the railroad the length of the state up into Jacksonville. I found it hard going, and part of the distance I helped the Negro fireman load cord wood for the wheezy old wood-burning locomotive, MAR 7 1941

I found work in Jacksonville, which at the time was a very tough town. Some months before it had suffered a huge fire, nearly half the city being destroyed. A great rebuilding boom was on, attracting thousands of building-trades workers from all over the country. And, like harpies, there came also a drove of gamblers, crooks, prostitutes and pimps to enjoy the easy pickings. Robbery and murder were daily occurrences.

One night, going home to my boarding-house, I was crossing a rather deserted railroad viaduct when I heard a voice calling faintly for help. The sound came from down among the maze of railroad tracks in the black darkness. At once my suspicions were



WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

aroused. I thought to myself, It's only a trick to get me down under the viaduct, where I'll be knocked on the head and robbed.

But I found it impossible to ignore the persistent, plaintive calls for help. Unsheathing a sizable jackknife that I carried, I went down the stairs and out onto the railroad tracks. By the sound of the voice, now grown more distinct, I cautiously made my way, knife in hand, to where a Negro lay all bunched up beside a track. He had been run over and horribly injured. But he was still conscious, and in a few words he told me his story.

He was a hobo, heading for Mississippi where his people lived. He had grabbed a freight that was pulling out, and, hanging on the side-ladder of a car, he was wiped off and swept under the wheels by some timber-work that was not "in the clear." Two cars and the caboose passed over him. His right arm was cut off completely at the elbow, while his left leg, horribly smashed above the knee, was still hanging by a bloody shred of flesh and cloth.

The accident had apparently happened twenty or thirty minutes before. The train crew, not noticing the accident had gone on. The Negro had already lost much blood and was rapidly bleeding to death. Amazingly he was still conscious and apparently felt little pain. He complained only of being cold, and actually held up his terribly crushed leg for me to look at. MAR 7 1941

I didn't know what to do to help him. Not a soul could be seen above on the viaduct and I had no idea where to find a yard office or switch shanty to secure aid. Finally I spied a light in a freight house, some distance away. Running there, I knocked on the big sliding door. Without opening the door, a watchman inside asked what I wanted. I told him a hobo had been run over and asked him to telephone for an ambulance, and would he help me carry the man to shelter? Being finally assured I was not a hold-up man, the watchman began to unbolt the door. But suddenly he stopped and asked, "Is he a white man?" I was dumbfounded at such a question. "What's that got to do with it?" I said. "He's a human being and bleeding to death. We must get him to a hospital at once." But the watchman slipped the bolt back into its slot and, despite my insistence, refused to open the door.

I was amazed and revolted and I swore all over the place. In the South I had seen many manifestations of the brutal Jim-Crow practice, but this cold-hearted act exposed in all its rotten nakedness the system which robs the Negroes of their rights and treats them as though they were sub-human beings. MAR 7 1941

Cursing the watchman, I went back to the injured Negro. Just as I got there a Negro switchman, lantern in hand, happened by. While I stayed with the injured

man, the switchman hurried to the yard-master's office to telephone the hospital and to bring the emergency stretcher which was always kept on hand to gather up what was left of the many railroad workers constantly mutilated in the big yards.

We carefully lifted the crushed Negro onto the stretcher, placing his cut-off arm beside him. He did not even groan. As they started off with him he called to the stretcher bearers, "Where's my hat? Get my hat." They went back and picked it up, a torn and dirty cap. MAR 7 1941

Next day the Negro switchman told me the injured died during the night. That same morning I went to the freight-house to protest against the watchman who refused to open the door and help the Negro 'bo. The boss listened, but from his cynical manner I was convinced his promised investigation would never take place. After that I went to a local paper and gave my story to the editor, but not a line of it appeared in print.

Bantu World Johannesburg, South Africa "Africans And The Police"

Obtainable from the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg. Price: 3d. (Post free).

This little book explains to Africans what the Police may do when they think that someone has done wrong or committed a crime, and what rights an African has when he is arrested.

In South Africa, no man is regarded as guilty of a crime until he has been proved to be guilty by evidence heard in court. There are many rules and laws that the Police must obey in order to make sure that every

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
Book Published
On Studies In
3 Communities

WASHINGTON, June 4—(ANP)

—The fifth and last of the studies in Negro youth personality development made by the American Youth Commission, "Thus Be Fair Destiny," attempts to show how boys and girls grow up in three small cities, towns of liberal traditions in both the North and South.

Greensboro, N. C., Galesburg, Ill., and Milton, Pa., are the towns which though widely separated geographically, culturally have a tradition in common of liberality toward Negroes. The first studies of the commission made under the sponsorship of the American Council on Education were regional studies. This last publication compares conditions between regions, but within the limitations of communities of somewhat similar tradition and with similar-sized populations.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Travel and Description

MUMBO JUMBO, ESQUIRE. A Book About the Two Africa's. By James Saxon. 1941. 8vo. 10s. 6d. Appleton-Century Company, Inc. Primitive and modern aspects of the continent.

accused person shall be given a fair trial. If the Police, or other officials, do not obey these laws, they may themselves be punished.

This law is the same for Africans as it is for Europeans, and it applies everywhere in South Africa. AUG 30 1941

"Africans and the Police" describes, in words that everyone can understand, what this law is. It explains how a crime is investigated by the Police; how and when an arrest is permitted; when bail is allowed; what a lawyer is and does; what a Court looks like and what happens in it; how and when the accused can speak for himself; what a jury is; and many other matters.

Ignorance of rights under the law often leads to injustice. This little Book explains to Africans how they can use the law to protect themselves against such injustices. It is written by an Advocate, Mr. Julius Lewin, who is now Lecturer in Native Law

and Administration of the Witwatersrand, offered to anyone who wishes to buy more than 10 copies. Write to the Publications Officer, S.A. Institute of Race Relations, P.O. Box 97, Johannesburg. The price has been kept low—3d. (3d. by post)—so that many people who cannot afford to spend money on books will be able to buy this.

Pages from Foster's Life

MAR 6 - 1941

Peonage In Florida

By William Z. Foster

In the winter of 1900 I pulled up stakes in Pennsylvania and worked my way to Havana, Cuba. The Spanish American war was just ended, and conditions for work were none too good; so, after a short stay, I returned to the States.

Arriving in Tampa broke, I aimed to get a job in the back country, to make a "road stake" before going North. Florida was (and still is) a tough country for workers. Wage rates were low and the employers, used the police power and a system of peonage to get workers. Unemployed men were arrested and sentenced as vagrants and then farmed out in chain gangs to the turpentine camps and phosphate mines, where the greedy contractors mercilessly exploited them. The Negroes especially were victims of this persecution.

Conditions on the county prison farms and in the prison-operated turpentine and phosphate industries were terrible—brutal discipline, exhausting labor, garbage as food, unsanitary conditions. A man guilty of nothing but being out of work would be sentenced to work out a fine of say fifteen dollars at a few cents a day. This was bad enough, but from time to time he was furnished shoes, shirts, etc., at high prices and compelled to work out their cost at the regular rate. In consequence, it usually took a year or more before a man, often broken in health, finally succeeded in paying the State his original fine of a few dollars. A similar system prevailed in nearly all the Southern states.

I was soon to learn that Flo-

rida's "free" industries were not much better than her chain gangs and prison camps. I took a Seaboard Air Line freight out of Tampa and dropped off a few miles out at a place called Turkey Creek. There I got a job with a railroad grading outfit ten miles back in the woods. I arrived in camp just at supper time. There were about fifty workers, all whites. It was the night before the monthly pay day and the men had just received their pay statements. Complaints and lamentations rose on all sides. Practically all the men were in debt to the contractor. Just as in the prison camps, they had been charged with various objects at high prices, and these were checked off against the wage of eight cents a day. Only a few had any money coming, and these were local peons.

I remember the plight of the donkey engine fireman. He was a youth with a broad Southern accent who had lived "away up north in Georgia." His wage was a dollar a day and he had twenty-one day's pay coming. But against his twenty-one dollars' total wages, they had charged off, besides the regular board of three-fifty a week, a canthook, mattress, blanket, tobacco and doctor fee, amounting in all to twenty-seven dollars. Thus, after three week's hard work, the fireman was six dollars in debt, and nearly all the men were in the same boat.

I sounded out a few of the more discontented men about the possibility of a strike; but they were too badly demoralized to take any action. One told me that on the previous pay day, confronted by a similar payless situation, four men had quit. But when they reached Turkey Creek they were picked up by "the police" as "vags" and sent to prison camps. The bosses used the threat of imprisonment in the medieval Florida chain gangs to force the men to work practically for nothing. The line between "free" and prison labor was then one in the Florida backwoods.

Evidently I could not pick up

my "road stake" at Turkey Creek, so I decided to "blow" in the morning. But I dared not tell the boss, as that would have invited a prison sentence. I ate breakfast after the rest, being delayed by the hiring-on process. The time-keeper directed me how to get to the "works." But at the forks of the road, where I should turn to the right, I went to the left instead and hot-footed the ten miles back to Turkey Creek. Fortunately the bosses did not check up on me until noon, and by that time I had already hit a freight and was gone. Otherwise I would have surely had a trip to the turpentine camps.

Still job hunting, I dropped off the freight train a few miles from Turkey Creek at a sawmill, owned by one Bramlitt. This man, a typical, rawboned Florida "cracker," immediately gave me a job with a partner felling trees. Our wages were a dollar a day, minus three dollars a week board, and we worked from daylight to dark.

Bramlitt had four sons, all yellow-faced and gaunt from constant quinine dosing in their never-ending war against malaria. There were eight white workers and half a dozen Negroes. The Negroes were Jim-Crowed in a nearby tumble-down shanty, while the whites bunked in a pine board shack. We were fed on the typical Southern workers' diet of sow-belly, beans, grits and corn pone.

One night the quiet air of our camp was broken by a medley of yells, pistol shots and the clatter of galloping horses. We whites piled out of the bunkhouse to learn what was up; but the Negroes, taught discretion by years of terrorism, fled into the nearby timber. About a dozen mounted men came riding bolsterously into the mill yard. It was a raid such as the "night-riders" and "white-caps" of that period often made in the Southern states. The raiders were armed, but did not wear masks or other regalia. Several were drunk and all displayed the traditional Ku Klux Klan spirit.

Bramlitt and the horsemen

hailed each other in friendly fashion. But we workers were lined up, questioned singly and bawled out collectively. The leader informed me that in southern Florida "if a Yankee minds his own business he is almost as good as a dog."

Finally, the night-riders rode off, leaving us unmolested. Several complained loudly, however, because the "niggers" had escaped them. In talking about it later, the workers stated that such raids were not unusual and that their purpose was to terrorize the working crews. The frightened Negroes stayed out in the woods all night.

After two weeks' work at Bramlitt's mill I figured that, with all due allowance for commissary robbery, I should have at least three dollars for my "road stake." So I told Bramlitt one night that I was quitting and wanted my time. He "flew off the handle" and told me that I could not quit. I was astounded. He was actually trying to keep me on the job by force. All argument was fruitless. Bramlitt simply refused to pay me and warned me not to quit.

In the bunkhouse the men sympathized with me but said they could do nothing. My partner earnestly advised me not to go to the authorities with the matter. If I did, said he, I would be arrested as a vagrant. Anyhow, even if by some miracle I could force Bramlitt to pay, all I would get would be a typical statement showing me to be in debt to him. They told me to "beat it while my shoes were good," by hopping a north-bound freight train.

Next morning I refused to work. The Bramlitt clan were on hand to prevent my going into the dining-room. Bramlitt, violently angry, shouted that if I did not go to work he would have me arrested. The workers assured me it was no mere threat and they warned me I was heading for a turpentine camp. Nothing could be done about it; so that night I jumped a "rattler" into Jacksonville and saw no more of Bramlitt and his peonage camp.

[Tomorrow: "A Negro Hobo Dies."]



WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tennessee

Two Volumes Treat Problem Of Negro In Modern World

PLOWING THROUGH the Story of the Negro in Agriculture, Morrow. \$1.50.

The first thing to ask about a book is what was the author's purpose in writing it, and did he succeed? If so, the next question is, what value does the book represent to the reader? "Plowing Through" is not a pretentious book. Its author obviously intended to put in brief, easy form the facts about the slow improvement in the general living conditions of Southern negroes.

He shows in a noncontroversial way the good effects of three principal factors: The United States Government's agricultural policies, particularly in the last 10 years and now; the Rosenwald Fund and negro institutions, like Tuskegee and Howard; and finally advances in technology, like rural electrification, food preserving methods and such, which are slowly affecting the lives of negroes on Southern farms. That slowness in taking effect is, of course, due to poverty, ignorance and primitiveness, but from the social standpoint it may be a good thing, for rapid changes in a people's circumstances has an upsetting effect. That is precisely why the advancing industrialization of the South, with the changes it brings in the lives of negroes and white people, is looked upon with some dread by far-sighted persons.

The author is a free writer, whose two previous books have dealt, respectively, with Russia and with Mussolini (a formerly well known vaudevillian, now somewhat eclipsed) whom he accompanied on a tour of Libya. Writing here with a broad social viewpoint, he shows a sincere interest in the human story of a good-natured and often misunderstood race.

A valuable feature of this thin book is its abundance of excellent photographs. While dilapidated shanties necessarily appear in some, the net effect is to portray a strong, contented people slowly adjusting to white man's technology and civilization—to a society that took the white man thousands of

years to develop and may require only a few years to destroy.
ROBERT D. FRANKLIN.
Director, Shelby County Libraries.

Bob Church's Daughter Relates Experiences

A COLORED WOMAN IN A WHITE WORLD. By Mary Church Terrell. Preface by H. G. Wells. Randsell. \$2.50.

The author might perhaps better have said "in a mad world," for much of what is wrong with the world, even from the negro's viewpoint, is not due to white dominance, but to a lack of sanity and good will among men of all races.

The author lived in Memphis at one time, and is the daughter of the famous negro politician, Bob Church. This is her full autobiography, and anyone who wants to know how an educated negro woman feels about life, the problems she faces as a human being, what gives her courage and hope, and what causes her shame and distress, can find it here.

She writes well, with the somewhat stilted language which seems to be characteristic of prose written by negroes. She reveals herself as a sensitive being, caught in a situation which no man has the power to alter very much. Her case raises that question, often posed but never settled, whether higher education really adds to the negro's happiness in a world which offers little opportunity to use that training, and often rebuffs it.

To the person looking at the negro's position from a detached and long-run viewpoint, the fact that a negro, who a century ago would have been a slave, can travel so far as to have tea with Lady Astor and publish a book with an H. G. Wells preface, may prove something—but you will have to say what.—R. F.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

'Tobacco Road' Turns Pale At Faulkner's 'Men Working' Depths of Degredation Are Sounded in This WPA Satire.

MEN WORKING, by John Faulkner. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. 300 pp. \$2.50.

John Faulkner's "Men Working" will not be very popular with Mississippi people, not even with that section of the state's population which considered the WPA merely an imposition. For William Faulkner's younger brother has produced for his first novel a combination of "Tobacco Road" and a satire on the governmental relief projects which is overdrawn in the extreme.

There could be no doubt but what Mr. Faulkner could, if he wished, point out a few families composed almost wholly of cretins, and a WPA project as stupidly run as that in his story. It would be just as simple to point out a number of highly intelligent WPA workers, and a number of productively managed WPA projects. But "Men Working" does not attempt to strike a balance. It merely piles disgust on disgust until the point is reached at which the Taylors dump the dead body of their idiot son into his coffin and poke it under their bed, where they leave it a week or more. Maw tried to get rid of an unborn child by jumping into a ditch and the idiot was her reward; the oldest girl liked bright lights and men who spent money on her, with the usual result.

The story is simplicity itself. Paw and Maw Taylor leave the cotton crop they are tending on shares because they can get on the "WP & A," as they call it, in town. Paw and Maw are beyond words stupid, and so are all their innumerable children excepting Hub, the oldest, and Buddy, the cripple, who likes to draw. The Taylors live in various old houses in town, sharing each with five or six other families, carrying water from the fishpond in the public square, buying radios instead of gro-

ceries, getting laid off, and taken back and talking. Forever talking. When unpaid bills caused water to be cut off, everybody used the backyard as a latrine until the health department acted.

There are a couple of small byplots, but these are not very important. Most of the book is talk, perfectly set down and sometimes amusing in a pitiful way. But the book is also a study in futility—the Taylors know nothing, learn nothing, do nothing. The same is true of their fellow "WP & A" workers, according to Mr. Faulkner.

Are there such people? We wouldn't know; maybe Mr. Faulkner does.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Tenant Farmers

LEAF GOLD. By W. W. Chamberlain. 347 pp. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company. \$2.50.

A S Bert Perkins, who worked for Mr. John P. Parks, drove the spanking mule team back to the farm from the Kentucky market town that Saturday afternoon, having delivered a nice load of "haws," he felt well pleased with himself and showed it in his lordly manner at the roadside stand where he stopped to command a bottle of beer and three hot dogs. The pert, lipstick girl behind the counter refused to be impressed. "Country boy," she addressed him, and added insult by a sneer at his mules (the finest in the county!); but her flippancy found its match in Bert's rough and ready wit. Louie, for whom Magnolia Harrison worked, was used to such crude banter; it was good for trade. However, when Bert, borrowing Mr. Parks's old car, started taking the girl to the movies her boss threatened Nolie with the loss of her job, and she, recalling the uncertain-

ties and privations of apple-picking in the Shenandoah Valley, got panicky. Ten-dollar-a-week jobs weren't going begging.

Children of migratory farm laborers, Bert and Nolie are described as typical of their class. He had been a harvest hand in a half score of Midwestern States, occasionally finding temporary industrial employment, but always preferring to work on the land. He had worked for his present employer for three years. He liked the Parks and knew they were proud of him as the hardest working hand in the district. When he and Nolie married, Mr. Parks gave them a cabin and a renter's share. Bert had mounted a step of the ladder.

In his depiction of the landlord-tenant farmer relation the author shows how mutually advantageous it can be when both parties to the contract are intelligent, honest, hardworking and enterprising. Here we have no evil of absentee landlordism. Farmer and tenant work as a team, pooling their experience and man power in conducting the highly complex operations of diversified farming with tobacco for the money crop. The minute description of planting, cultivation, harvesting, curing, warehousing and the final disposal of a tobacco crop at auction—all this being incidental to the young couple's struggle toward a higher level of economic security—will not be likely to attract town dwellers to try their uncalled hands at farming. Mr. Chamberlain, himself a Kentucky tobacco grower, abundantly clear that this crop offers the farmer no royal road to riches, but rather involves an unceasing fight with nature.

The young couple's domestic joys and sorrows, their social life, the community spirit of mutual help in diurnal tasks and in the major crises of births and deaths, the husking bees and barn-raising parties are described with similar fidelity to realistic detail. These

tenant farmers lead a hard life, if unconscious idealism, their women grow old before their time with excessive child-bearing and overwork, but they have a pride that invalidates any suggested resemblance to "Tobacco Road" types. Despite poverty, meager schooling and scant opportunities for economic advancement, they face life with courage, honesty and essential, A novel about simple, undramatic people, "Leaf Gold" depicts an aspect of Southern life with the fidelity of a slow-motion cinema. DRAKE DE KAY.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

Washington During Secession

REVEILLE IN WASHINGTON, 1860-1865. By Margaret Leech. Harper and Brothers. \$3.50.

AT THE beginning of Miss Leech's panorama—the word is an exact description—the central figures in the scene are two gentlemen of the old school—James Buchanan of Pennsylvania and Winfield Scott of Virginia. President Buchanan was on his way out, and the end of his term could not come fast enough to suit him. The Union he had sworn to uphold was crumbling and something had to be done about it. He did not know what, but he had gone so far as to summon from semi-retirement the Commanding General. Scott was firmly loyal to the Union flag, but otherwise hardly qualified to deal with a situation in which the Southern officers on whom Scott, and the country, were largely dependent could not be depended upon.

At the close of the drama the scene is dominated by two self-made men from Illinois, and what had to be done has been done. It is the virtue of this book that it brings home to the most casual reader the enormous, almost unbelievable difficulties which had to be overcome in the process.

Washington was a Southern town, and the government as well as the army had hitherto been dominated by Southerners, either in person or through fellow Democrats. But Washington was also a symbol, and the Union must consequently conduct its campaign from there even though it was almost alien territory. The North's greatest military liability was also its greatest political asset. But disloyalty in and around the government was only one of the difficulties. Jealousy, corruption, indifference, political shortsightedness were among the others. The greatest of all was a bungling inefficiency in both the government and the army which can never have been surpassed and seldom equaled in a great nation in a great crisis. In the end Lincoln became a big enough man to cut through politics, and in Grant he finally found a general stubborn enough to stand his ground.

Packed with detail, crowded with characters as divergent as Louisa M. Alcott and John Wilkes Booth, Andrew Carnegie and Mrs. Rose Greenhow, the Confederate "lady spy," if such she can be called, "Reveille in Washington" gives the reader some idea of the thousand small events which contributed to the generalizations of the history books.

The change in Washington itself is vividly brought home. "As in 1800 and 1850, so in 1860," Miss Leech quotes from Henry Adams, "the same rude colony was camped in the same forest, with the same unfinished Greek temples for workrooms, and sloughs for roads." All during the war the building went on, and the city became more of a city, more the focus of the country, more the care of the federal government rather than of the local inhabitants.

The defects of Miss Leech's book are those of its qualities. She has covered so much ground that inevitably she has not

gone very deep. The book remains a panorama, a picture, something looked at rather than lived through. And as the details are derived mostly from prominent characters or public records, the picture tends to be one painted by what Washingtonians would regard as outsiders and so gives an external view. For the real Washingtonians are not the generals and Cabinet ministers, the Congressmen and Senators and Presidents. They are not even the government employees. Like every other American city Washington has a permanent population, and this population is singularly untouched by the accidental fact that Washington is the national capital. During the War of Secession they were nearly all Southern sympathizers. This may be why Miss Leech has neglected them except as they figured on the larger stage of the struggle which was going on. But no book about Washington which does not tell what they were thinking and feeling gives a picture in the round.

This is the only adverse criticism to be made of a book which is a real contribution to the general reader's understanding of the critical years it covers and of some of their chief figures, notably Lincoln.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

JAMES ORRICK

Race Writers Publish 4 Non-Fiction Books

BOSTON, Mass., (ANP)—Four new books, authored by colored writers, have been recently issued by the Christopher Publishing house here.

"Some Things We Saw While Abroad" deals with the problems of peoples of Europe, Asia Minor and Northern Africa. Written by J. F. Lane, Ph. D., and Mary Edna Lane, Litt. D., it is a consensus of observations made by the authors, while traveling through these countries.

Margaret C. McCullough, A.B., M.A., compiled a biography on the life of Francis Julius LeMoyné, M.D., founder of LeMoyné College. The book is entitled "Fearless Advocate of the Right."

The author of "How To Be Successful Negro Americans," Fitzhugh Lee Styles, LL.B., seeks to give information lessons to ambitious men and women who desire to attain the heights in Negro life and business. Styles is also author of "Negroes and the Law."

The last book deals with the theory of education and its connection with religion. Authorized by M. Lafayette Harris, B.S., Ph.D., president and professor of philosophy of Philander Smith College, it is entitled "The Voice in the Wilderness."

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

Negro Educators Praise Book On Cotton

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—"Round the World With Cotton" is the title of a recent book prepared under the joint supervision of Dr. I. W. Duggan, director, Southern Division, A.A.A. and Dr. Paul V. Chapman, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Georgia.

Copies of the book along with a Teacher's Guide for its use as a supplementary text book, are being distributed to Negro educators through the office of Albon L. Holsey, field administrative assistant of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration which is located here.

A few comments selected from many of the letters received here concerning the book follow:

M. C. A. Talbert, director of agriculture, Alcorn College, Mississippi, says that "the book will be used as a supplementary text for our course in cotton production. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration through Dr. I. W. Duggan, has done a wonderful and helpful piece of work in publishing this book."

Mrs. Carrie J. Gleed, chairman, Home Economics Committee, Tuskegee Institute says: "I shall use the book to great deal in my classes."

Dr. M. F. Spaulding, director of agriculture, Langston University in Oklahoma regards the books as "an excellent discourse on cotton, very condensed and suitable for use in studies on cotton for crops in Land Grant Colleges."

Alva Tabor, head itinerant teacher trainer in agricultural education for Georgia Negro schools with headquarters at Fort Valley considers the contents and illustrations as "the most valuable publication dealing with cotton which has yet been made available for teachers in our elementary schools high schools and colleges."

Mrs. Marian B. Paul, state supervisor of Negro Home Demonstration Work, Orangeburg, South Carolina, says that the book "is an encyclopedia of the cotton industry."

D. C. Jones, state teacher-trainer of Vocational Agriculture for Oklahoma with headquarters at Langston says that aside from industry, the book is excellent source material for classes in Vocational Agriculture."

John W. Fisher, director of agriculture, Southern University,

Scotlandville, La., says that "the students in our Department of Agriculture will be more appreciative of the cotton industry after reading the book than before because of its historical background." J. R. Otis, director of agriculture, Tuskegee Institute, says that the book "briefly states the conditions under which other cotton producing countries loom as a factor in our own national production."

Hon. Henry A. Wallace, former Secretary of Agriculture and now vice president of the United States said in the foreword to the book that "it presents in simple, non-technical style, a story of cotton at home and abroad. It uses easily understood words, photographs, charts and pictographs to tell in entertaining fashion what has happened to cotton, since its legendary origin in India five thousand years ago."

From the limited supply of the books on hand a copy will be sent to any teacher or other educational leader upon request with the compliments of the Southern Division of the A.A.A.

Below the Potomac

The Mind of the South, by W. J. Cash. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 455 pages. \$3.75. MAY 12 1941

LOVERS OF THE SOUTH and haters of the South alike are pretty sure to be outraged by Mr. Cash's analysis of the region—which is good reason to believe that it is not far from the truth. It is a reflective book, which will disgust the materialists; but its conclusions are based on careful and clear-eyed observation, which will disgust the idealists. In short, there is no reason why anyone should like the book except those who are more interested in knowing what the South is really like than in reinforcing any preconceived opinion about it.

Within the last dozen years the region below the Potomac has been examined with a thoroughness certainly equaling and perhaps excelling that given to any other part of the United States. The University of North Carolina Press alone has issued a long series of studies, all of which are good, and some of which are brilliant. Vance's "Human Geography of the South" and Odum's monumental "Southern Regions of the United States" are doubtless the best known, but they are only two out of a score of titles each of which commands respect for scholarship and intellectual integrity. But most of these are severely factual. Daniels' "A Southerner Discovers the South" touches the philosophical side, but touches it lightly. Not since Mims's "The Advancing South," published in 1926, has there been a comparable effort to examine the mentality of the region; and Mims's book was largely given over to special pleading.

In a sense Cash's work is special pleading, too, but it is an effort to establish, not a thesis, but a basis of understanding. The author is a Southerner and frankly a partisan of the South; but he is too intelligent to believe that a case can be made by ignoring the obvious crimes and barbarities of the region. He therefore sets himself the task not of palliating or excusing them, but of explaining the psychological factors that have created them. He makes a good job of it, too. He is not always convincing, but he is always plausible. It is possible that in some instances he can be refuted; but he can never be refuted without some careful thought.

Mr. Cash is a journalist, not an academician, and his book is written in the language of the streets, not that of the schools; but it is journalistic only in the sense that its language is simple and clear, avoiding technical terms and qualifying parentheses. The thought, however, is sometimes far from simple. The analysis of the psychological effect of Reconstruction, for example, requires close attention; the argument that a fanatical individualism and a fascistic cultural regimentation developed simultaneously is perfectly

logical, if carefully followed, but hastily read it sounds like nonsense. Nevertheless, it is supported by the facts; the South is individualistic in its social philosophy, and it is—or it has been until recently—culturally regimented.

The cult of the Golden Age in the Old South makes no appeal whatever to Mr. Cash. He does not, however, fall into the error of dismissing it as unadulterated bosh. He thinks there were enough genuine aristocrats to afford a basis for the legend; but apparently he thinks that there are still about as many gentlemen of the old school in the South as there ever were; which is to say, a very small proportion of the total population. His argument, in short, is that the distinction between the Old South and the New is largely imaginary; the South is pretty much what it always was, due allowance being made for the effect of new factors in its environment.

Unromantic, unsentimental, cool, clear-headed, "The Mind of the South" does not furnish much support to anybody's theories, but it is nevertheless one of the most stimulating efforts at Southern self-criticism that have yet been made. The very fact that it was written by a Southerner living in the South—Mr. Cash is from North Carolina—is a better defense of the modern South than anything in its pages.

GERALD W. JOHNSON

News Birmingham, Ala. A Guide To Alabama

Most of the states are now represented in the American Guide Series of the Work Projects Administration. Experience gained in the earlier productions may be one reason why the Alabama book, just now issued under the title, *Alabama, A Guide to the Deep South*, stands out as a fine piece of work, a credit to Alabama and a valuable addition to the state's literature.

Tastefully bound, handsomely illustrated, the Alabama volume carries a wealth of information about the state which may be expected to be of interest to tourists and travelers. There is not a resident of the state, however, who cannot learn something from it. While it may have been written about Alabama more for others than for Alabamians, those who live within the state will be delighted and instructed by it.

One of the fine things about *Alabama, A Guide to the Deep South*, is its emphasis upon the present. More of a descriptive work than an historical one, it seeks to measure up to the foreword by Gov. Dixon that Alabama "is given a happy blending of the old

and the new." The past has left its signs upon Alabama, but the state is sharing in the new South that is arising.

The volume has been in process of production for several years. At first there was a disposition on the part of the state government not to cooperate in its publication. That difficulty was solved, however, and the volume was produced under the sponsorship of the Alabama State Planning Commission. The book as published should be evidence in itself that the Dixon administration acted wisely in seeing to its publication.

Many writers contributed to the 464 pages of the book. The result is a variety of styles and a few, but not many, inconsistencies. Typical of the latter are two accounts of the famous Sam Dale canoe fight on the Alabama River near Claiborne in which the pioneer guide and fighter with three companions fought it out with a canoe-load of Creek warriors. One account in the book has Dale and his companions killing all nine of the Indians; the other account says 10 of 11 Indians were killed. Another minor variance occurs in regard to the Birmingham Civic Symphony Orchestra, listed in one place as having been organized in 1932 and in another place as having its birth in 1933. (The correct date is 1932.)

But those can be passed over as minor mistakes. In a book so full of varied information, it is not surprising to find a few errors. Let it be hoped that the volume goes into additional printings, in which case the mistakes can be corrected.

A valuable part of the volume is its chronology of Alabama history down through the first months of the present year. The book also contains a complete bibliography of books and major articles about Alabama, its counties and cities and towns.

Persons who want to know Alabama, especially those who are fond of traveling with a guidebook to illumine and brighten the way, should find much use for *Alabama, A Guide to the Deep South*. The rest of the people of Alabama may gain from the volume an additional pride in their state with its varied places of interest, with its sharp contrasts of the old and the new. The antebellum mansion and the extensive steel mill combine in the book to make a single picture of pride and hope.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

The Yankee Cudgel

By John T. Appleby

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, it is frequently said, did more than any other one person to bring about the Civil War. Certainly "Uncle Tom's Cabin" aroused a greater storm, both here and abroad, than any other one book has done, before or after. In its first year it attained a sale of 305,000 copies and made its author the foremost woman of America, the recipient of an "Affectionate and Christian Address" signed by half a million Englishwomen.

Harriet Beecher was born in 1811 in Litchfield, Conn., a town which at that time was quite prepared to dispute Boston's claims to intellectual eminence. "At a Presidential ball a beautiful Litchfield woman was enjoying a social triumph. The British minister could not restrain his admiration."

"By jove, that lady would ornament the Court of England!"

"Yes, sir," was the unblinking response. "She is distinguished even on Litchfield Hill."

Her father was the eminent Calvinistic divine, Lyman Beecher, who, upon hearing of the death of Lord Byron, lamented, "Oh, if Byron could only have talked with Taylor and me, it might have got him out of his troubles!"

Harriet passed her first 3 years as one of the shyest and quietest members of a family of 11. Then she went to her sister Catherine's school, the Hartford Female Academy, where she was both pupil and instructor of the younger classes. During her eight years there she developed into the shy, friendless, and intensely introverted character that she remained during most of her life.

WHEN DR. LYMAN BEECHER was offered the presidency of Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati in 1832, he gathered most of his family about him and set out for the West. Nine of the Beechers made up the caravan, preaching the Gospel, singing hymns, and "peppering the land with moral influence" as they went. Arrived in Cincinnati, Dr. Beecher lived up to his reputation as one of the greatest preachers in America and made Lane Seminary one of the best in the land, 'til they struck a snag over the abolition question and split.

The 8 years in Cincinnati were the least eventful in Harriet's life. She made no friends, saw little of the country, and apparently was not greatly interested in the abolition movement. She married the Rev. Calvin Stowe, a learned widower, whose Hebrew far surpassed his energy. She made a brief trip into Kentucky, where she secured the scene with which she later opened "Uncle Tom's Cabin." And she began her literary career by writing a geography, published under her sister Catherine's name, and sketches of New England life, the first of which was published in 1834. During all this time Harriet felt herself an exile from New England, and it is significant that her writings of this period, most of them short stories and sketches suggested by her husband's tales, dealt with New England life.

When her husband accepted a position at Bowdoin, Harriet was at last able to return to that part of the country she loved so well. At the height of the agitation over the Fugitive Slave Act, one Sunday in February, 1851, during the communion service, Harriet had a vision and walked home in a daze. She



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

went to her room and wrote out the "picture" she had seen. That picture was the death of Uncle Tom, flogged by Sambo and Quimbo, while Simon Legree looked on.

Her family were so impressed by what she read to them (her husband and children wept profusely) that Harriet set to work building a story about this picture. As soon as she had begun it, she offered her story to the National Era in Washington, remarking that it might extend through three or four numbers. In the issue of June 5, 1851, appeared the first installment of "Uncle Tom's Cabin: or Life Among the Lowly." It ran through the March of the following year, with Harriet never more than one jump ahead of the printers, and not always that. With its publication in book form, Harriet suddenly found herself famous, with the presses unable to keep up with the demand for her novel.

Along with fame came also some of its bitter fruits. She had quoted an eminent divine, the Rev. Joel Parker, as being in favor of slavery, or at least as having attempted to excuse what could not be excused, and she mentioned him by name in a footnote which persisted into many editions of the book. Dr. Parker branded Mrs. Stowe in the public prints as coarse and unladylike, a mercenary coward, and a liar. The whole country took up the quarrel. Lawyers and intermediaries scurried back and forth. Mrs. Stowe took on the form of a mist and could not be pinned down. She was not well; she was very busy; her husband handled her business affairs. Dr. Parker at last gave up.

MRS. STOWE composed a "Key" to her masterpiece, assembling a host of *ex post facto* sources, and then hurried off to England. The frail little New England author, barely 5 feet tall, took Scotland and England by storm. She addressed immense public meetings, received handsome purses, was taken up by the great names of London, and still did not have her head turned. She made a tour of the continent and then returned to her beloved New England, this time to Andover.

The experience which most impressed Harriet while she was abroad was her meeting with Lady Byron. The two became great friends and corresponded after Mrs. Stowe returned to America. Then came the Civil War, "Harriet's War," as her biographer calls it, with Mrs. Stowe running down to Washington to see Mr. Lincoln, to find out for herself if he really intended to free the slaves. She contributed one son, Fred, to the Union forces. Fred came safely through the war, only to emerge afterward as a confirmed drunkard and a sore thorn in the Beecher flesh.

After the war, Harriet embarked on a battle of her own, a fight that cost her almost her entire popularity. The Countess Guiccioli, one of Byron's mistresses, published her recollections, in which she tried to prove that Byron's downfall came about solely through the cold, mercenary actions of Lady Byron. Harriet rose at once to the defense of her friend. In the Atlantic Monthly, of which she was one of the original contributors, she published what she said was Lady Byron's account of the affair, told to her in strictest confidence, and mentioned the horrid word, "incest." At this vilification of one of the Nation's heroes, such a storm burst over Harriet's head as she had never dreamed of. She had been guilty of conduct unbecoming a lady.

Mrs. Stowe wrote voluminously until she was 70. She filled the Atlantic Monthly with essays on the house beautiful. She wrote sermons and short stories. She was the first woman columnist. Her later novels sold tremendously, although not on the scale of her first one, by which she is remembered.

MR. WILSON'S LIFE of Harriet Beecher Stowe will be at once recognized as an authoritative biography. I hesitate to apply so dull a word as "scholarly" or "learned" to so readable a book, but nothing else will cover the immense amount of research that must have gone into its writing.

More important for the general reader, "Crusader in Crinoline" is fascinating reading. Mr. Wilson writes a lively and lucid English and makes the best of the whole diverting Beecher clan. He is quite uncritical on his subject, which is as it should be, for Harriet Beecher Stowe is not, after all, a fit subject for criticism. Her importance is not that of the novelist, but of the historical figure, and it is as such that Mr. Wilson writes of her.

"CRUSADER IN CRINOLINE,"
by Forest Wilson. (Lippincott,
\$3.75.)

From a daguerreotype by Southworth and Hawes which serves as the frontispiece of Mr. Wilson's biography

New York Age

New York, N. Y.

Richard Wright Busy

On New Novel About

Domestic Workers

Richard Wright is busy checking the details for his new novel about domestic workers and employment agencies. Similar to his procedure in creating the background for "Native Son," he is interviewing judges, social workers and city officials for accurate information on the subject.

The interviews are being arranged by his attorney, Allan Taub, whose friendship with Mr. Wright began a number of years ago under unusual circumstances.

In 1934 Mr. Taub, one of the attorneys in the celebrated Scottsboro case, was driving around the country lecturing on behalf of the Scottsboro Boys before many groups including students of Columbia, Dartmouth, Princeton and Tulane. When he stopped in Detroit, a friend with whom he dined introduced him to a young Negro writer and asked Mr. Taub if he would give him a lift to Chicago. On the ride to Chicago, between bites of hamburgers, they found a great common interest—the Negro people.

Wright was interested in treating a novel which was bursting within him for expression; and Taub, in addition to carrying on his general practice of law, was defending the rights of Negroes.

They parted in Chicago and it was not until years later, after Mr. Wright had become one of the greatest novelists of our time, that he remembered the man who had befriended him. The author telephoned Mr. Taub at his office at 175 Fifth Avenue, New York City, recalled their ride from Detroit, and asked him to act as his attorney.

During a part of the first interview, with Judge Jonah J. Goldstein of the Court of General Sessions, who is a long standing member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Richard Wright and his attorney sat on the bench beside the judge while a young Negro from South Carolina was being tried.

Additional interviews have been arranged and with this thorough research plus the writing genius

of Mr. Wright, his many enthusiastic readers can look forward to a work of art equal to, if not surpassing, "Native Son."

8-1941

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Facts Discredit Southern 'History'; A Montgomerian Looks At 1861

MAR 9 1941

LINCOLN TAKES COMMAND; by John Shipley Tilley; The University of North Carolina Press; Price, \$3.50. Mr. John S. Tilley has performed a monumental task in assembling the historical data compiled in this volume. He has spent ten years upon the work, but it has been a worthy undertaking. As a result of his researches and revelations a lot of history and a good many school text-books used in the South are going to have to be re-written if they want to chronicle real facts instead of fiction and propaganda.

It is now far enough from the war between the States, and all the rage that accompanied it, to make menish the supplies of Fort Pickens at willing to face the facts, place re-Pensacola were in defiance of a formal sponsibility where it belongs and ac-armistice existing between the Federal knowledge the errors of commission and Confederate forces, signed by and omission of which both sides had honorable men in good faith in the a share. It is lamentable that the hope of bringing about a peaceful original records and documents pre-adjustment of differences. Similarly sent by Mr. Tilley and here brought the reenforcement of Fort Sumter was into focus for the first time some-due to secret orders given by the what dim the halo which Abraham President and was accomplished in Lincoln wore, particularly with ref-the utmost secrecy despite the efforts erence to his part in initiating hos-of Major Robert Anderson in com-tilities, and which make the utterance-mand of the fort and Gen. Beaure-ward none" a little less impressive-gard in charge of the Confederate forces at Charleston to avoid a con-flict and to give time for a peaceful adjustment. Lincoln, prodded no doubt by the interests responsible for his election, interests which hoped to profit by wrecking the South's economy, kept the chip on his shoulder, defying the South to act. In the words of Mr. Tilley:

"Looking backward after three quar-ters of a century upon the horrors of a war involving the expenditure of billions of dollars and the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of the choic-est youth of the country, there arises to view the well-nigh incredible reve-lation that militant minorities on both sides forced a conflict which the ma-jority of the citizenship regarded as unspeakable and unnecessary."

After the first shot was fired the die was cast though at the time it expressed the sentiments in the heart of the South. Mr. Tilley quotes, for example, from an editorial from the Montgomery Advertiser on the morn-ing after the Sumter crisis. Cap-tioned "Glory Enough For All" it said: "The intelligence that Fort Sum-ter surrendered sent a thrill of joy to the heart of every true friend of the South. The face of every Southern man was brighter, his step lighter, and his bearing prouder, than it had been before."

Rumblings in the United States Senate became louder however and there was suspicion that undue haste

had been shown in bringing on the crisis. On July 29, 1861, the Senate upon learning that the handling of the Sumter situation "was an executive act," called upon the President for information and in reply was told that "communication of information called for would not at this time comport with the public interest."

Southern men with the gift and talent for historical research are rare. It is therefore extremely gratifying that Montgomery should have devel-oped a man of such scholarly gifts and qualities as Mr. Tilley. An exam-ination of this work shows the vast amount of material he must have ex-aminated to sift and present in such convenient form the documents and quotations which set forth the story of events leading up to the opening of the great conflict. He combines three qualities which make the ideal histo-rian, the patience for research, the legal ability to sift the true from the false, and the talent to write and tell his story in fascinating English.

This volume is sure to be recognized as one of the really great contribu-tions to the chronicles of American history.

Mr. Tilley's book is dedicated to his wife, Wilhelmina Lanier Tilley.

C. M. S.

Constitution Atlanta, Georgia

Inofrmative / I

STATISTICAL ATLAS OF SOUTHERN COUNTIES, by Charles S. Johnson. Univer-sity of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill. 355 pp. \$4.

This volume presents a sta-tistical analysis of 1,104 coun-ties in 13 southern states. Each county is tabulated with regard to density of population, ratio by race, occupational distribu-tion, types of farms and major crops, proportion of mortgaged farms, school attendance, com-parative expenditure for educa-tion by race, distribution of one-teacher schools, proportion of illiteracy by race, and many other items. In all, the counties are analyzed with respect to 51 indices of social and economic characteristics.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

The World's Greatest City In 1860;

Why New York Clung To The South

APR 13 1941

BUSINESS AND SLAVERY; by Philip S. Foner, Ph. D.; University of North Carolina Press; \$4.

Business men and merchants do not usually take an active part in politics. They have their minds on their own affairs, and as business men, they expect to deal with al-factions, hence their policy of steer-ing clear of animosities. In the ter-years preceding the War Between the States, the merchants and business men of New York City were in a desperate quandary. They had long been close personal friends of the South. Their trade with the South was enormous. They had visited in this region, and the wealthy Southern planters had made annual trips to New York many of which had re-sulted in marriages between the sons and daughters of the different sec-tions.

APR 13 1941

Dr. Philip S. Foner, of the depart-ment of history of the College of the City of New York has written a fascinating story of the reaction of the New York merchants to the ir-repressible conflict which evidenced itself so inescapably during the ten years from 1850 to 1860. He calls his volume "Business and Slavery," but it goes deeply into the vast intimacy of the business and financial rela-tionship between the South and City of New York prior to the great war among brothers, and embraces a much wider field than a mere struggle over slavery.

APR 13 1941

We of this generation are likely to be unfamiliar with some of the fundamental things that were up-rooted by the great conflict. Dr. Foner shows how completely New York City dominated the cotton in-dustry from the very beginning. It was New York money that financed the crop, it was New York merchants who supplied the great farms and plantations often through their big commission houses located in South-ern cities. The relations were such

that many New York merchants in the 50's were owners of slaves them-selves because they had taken over plantations on which they held mortgages and with the plantations they had acquired thousands of slaves which were a part of the security that had been given for loans.

As far back as the 1830's a special committee of the Alabama legislature which was created to investigate the subject reported that one-third of all the annual money money return from the State's cotton crop went to brok-ers, dealers and merchants in New York City. Even that long ago there

was protest over the manner in which New York was "exploiting" this whole region. But on the whole it seems to have been a pleasant and satisfactory arrangement, because the social and business relationships were so close that all interests were agreeable to its continuance. At any rate, the South even back in those days of great wealth had not the money to finance itself, and it depended then as now, upon the Eastern capitalist to supply the necessary funds for its purposes.

APR 13 1941

Out of all this and the steady and ever increasing agitation for abolition Dr. Foner has developed a most fascinating story of the manner in which the New York business men met the crisis and how they reacted to the greatest political issue that has ever divided the American peo-ple. They wanted the South treated fairly. Their personal interest as well as their eagerness to preserve the Union unimpaired prompted them to take this position. It is a most in-teresting journey through history to read the documentary record show-ing how they reacted to the com-promise of 1850, Bleeding Kansas, Black Republicanism, the Lincoln-Douglas controversy, the election of 1860, the secession, and the efforts to adjust the nation to the catechismic struggle that ensued—C. M. S.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Edwin Mims Jr. Clarifies Real Meaning Of Democracy

MAR 23 1941

THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. By Edwin Mims Jr. Modern Age Books. \$2.75.

Today when a great national effort is being directed toward convincing Americans that democracy is worth saving, worth dying for in fact, it is a tragic commonplace that few have any real understanding of the meaning of democracy. This state of affairs does not stem in toto from either ignorance or apathy. It derives in large part from the fact that there has been a constant struggle from the American Revolution to the present day over the basic meaning of democracy. Getting down to bedrock does it mean that the majority shall rule in the absolute sense, or is that rule limited by guarantees of minority rights? Are majority rule and minority rights in reality compatible parts of a political whole? Few Americans have denied the basic concept of democracy that the will of the majority, even the barest majority, is binding on the minority; few Americans have desired or will desire to carry that doctrine to its logical extremity.

"The Majority of the People" is a brilliant defense of majority rule. The author has no sympathy for "on the one hand, but on the other hand" sentiments. The study presents no program for reform. Rather it is a searching examination of the views and actions of the political leaders of our past. The burden of the argument is that "majority rule ideas . . . presided at the birth of the American republic," but in time a reorientation occurred. In the place of the original fundamental doctrine of popular sovereignty was substituted the "great American principle" of governmental sovereignty. In other words, the "sacred instrument of 1789" became more important than the "sacred principles of 1789."

Dr. Mims, who is the son of Professor Mims of Vanderbilt University, has produced a study which is unquestionably valuable, especially since it comes at a time when there is (or rather should be) so much thinking on the true meaning of democracy. It is the first exhaustive treatment of American thinking on the question of majority rights. Moreover, for once the reader will agree with the extravagant blurb that the book is "written in a style worthy of the literary masters whose works it discusses." Clarity, simplicity, scholarship, and a positive stand on an important controversial issue are qualities rarely found in one book.

The author's plea for a "return" to the principle of majority rule without limitations will seem a dangerous doctrine to Americans grounded in the idea of minority

rights. Consolation may be had from the reflection that however far the Founding Fathers may have gone in theory, in practice they set up an instrument of government charged with the safe keeping of the rights of the minorities. That the minority has often used this instrument of government unjustifiably to protect its own political and economic interests is undeniable. But the basic question with us has been and remains: At what point should majority rule be checked in order to preserve certain fundamental rights of the minority?

JOSEPH J. MATHEWS.

News

Birmingham, Ala. The Sharecropper Sometimes Lives In The Big Cities

SHARECROPPERS ALL, by Arthur F. Raper and Ira De A. Reid. Illustrated. Published by The University of North Carolina Press. 281 pages. \$3.

PERHAPS THE MOST heartening fact in the whole disheartening truth about the present-day South is the fact that we Southerners are facing the truth and not flinching. We don't like it, goodness knows; but we're not running away. We're having a good look.

Two of the best informed and most intelligent examiners have written a book about their findings. The two are Dr. Arthur F. Raper, research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and Dr. Ira De A. Reid, of the faculty of Atlanta University.

Looking at the South as it is today, these two men find that "most Southern communities are essentially feudalistic. The revealing phrase 'my workers' may be heard in factory and downtown office building as well as at the end of the cotton rows. The company store of the mill village is not unlike the commissary, the factory supervisor not unlike the plantation overseer."

"But the parallel does not stop with the factory town, or with the South, and the significance is national, for only a little less dependent and insecure than the South's landless farmers are chain-store clerks, salesmen, insurance agents,

taxi drivers, and filling station operators; while the city's casual laborers and domestic servants receive but little more pay and have little more protection of civil rights than do plantation wage hands and migratory farm laborers."

After having so clearly stated their beliefs, the authors then tell of innumerable distressing facts to prove their contentions. Furthermore they are not content merely to talk in generalities; they are forever citing examples, giving statistics that will seriously disturb any man with an interest in the South and a hope of some day seeing it free itself from its present economic shackles.

"Sharecroppers All" is a moving book that deserves a careful reading. It is the kind of book that may bring about concerted and intelligent action from the leaders in Southern communities.

Constitution Atlanta, Georgia South's Problem.

SHARECROPPERS ALL, by Arthur F. Raper and Ira De A. Reid. University of North Carolina Press. Chapel Hill. 281 pp. \$3.

This is a paradoxical book that every southerner should read. Whether one puts the book down with despair or with determination to do something about building the new and better south it holds to be possible, depends largely on the reader's temperament and social outlook. Arthur Raper and Ira Reid have covered their field with thoroughness. Statistics are so related to the narrative that they are easily assimilated. Here is the picture of the long background, the economic, racial, political and social factors that produced the present, and a discerning, unafraid analysis of southern poverty, lacks, handicaps, malnutrition, erosion of land and people, prejudices, and exploitation from outside the region and within it.

But here too is hope based on proof that there is nothing biologically wrong with the poorest of southerners. Given a chance—a chance based on work, more money, food, medical care, education, a share in political democracy and these people can make good.

With thoroughness the authors show the connection between racial and economic exploitation. They convincingly prove that so long as the Negro is impoverished and denied educational and civil rights, millions of white people must remain economically and socially submerged.

"Sharecroppers All" makes one groan in spirit, yet it gives hope as it points to the resources

yet left, and the people in the south who are intelligently, patiently and courageously tackling the problems. The point, too, to the hope in the attitude of the present federal administration and its co-operation through many agencies in reaching down into and helping with some of the most difficult southern situations.

LUCY RANDOLPH MASON.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Mississippi Politics Pictured By Photographic Realist

FROM HELL TO BREAKFAST. By Edward Kimbrough. Lipincott. \$2.50.

I suppose everybody nowadays knows there are three types of lenses; but I'm going to take time out to state their properties, because in Edward Kimbrough we have a photographic realist to contend with, and we might as well catalog the young gentleman optically.

First, there's the box camera single lens. Edward Kimbrough isn't that. Next, there is the doublet—two lenses that correct certain optical defects. Kimbrough is not that type either. Finally come the anastigmat lenses; and they range all the way from the fairly inexpensive but corrected optics to the very fine Zeiss Tessars that are corrected for colors, for lines, for all manner of aberrations. Somewhere in this upper group Kimbrough is. But where lenses are never better than when you first buy them, the photographic realist may start in the box-camera field and improve until he's in the Tessar class; and I'll wager my old battered candid that's where the boy is headed for.

Specifically Kimbrough's scene is the state of Mississippi; and the people in his candid are Gus Roberts, running to succeed himself as senator; Jerry Clinton, a young idealist whose sympathies are with the underdogs and labor votes; Gus's charming daughter Julia, who loves papa but loves Jerry more; Gus's highnosed wife who loves about everything except Gus—and maybe I don't blame her; Brownpants, labor organizer; Fannie, lady of the evening for Gus when his evenings have gone hard; and a few other minor people who don't count much in the poses.

When Kimbrough used Julia in the picture, daughter of one candidate and sweetheart of the other, as did a stroke of dramatic genius. In fact, it seemed to me as I read that his strength at this stage of his development was for sure-fire plotting, with characterization coming along second. With undeviating instinct the novelist has driven straight through to the very end, logically, inevitably, and dra-

matically.

The strength of Kimbrough's book lies in its fearless social thesis, his keen delineation of the political scene in the Deep South. I think the chief weakness lies in the satirical approach to Gus Roberts. On the surface he is just a funny old Mississippi politician of the broomsedge demagogue school. And Kimbrough's lens all the way through is focussed only on eternal. That, by the way, is one limitation of all optics, but beneath that surface lies a sort of appealing and futile person who walks through his days toward the close of his career an outward success and an inward failure. He is not a comic figure. He is a pathetic and tragic one, it seemed to me; and young Kimbrough will live to write Gus Robert's inner story and be the greatest writer for having done it.

He is a product of Hudson Strode's fiction factory down University of Alabama way, and if Strode doesn't watch out he'll be having labor troubles in his own grist mill for turning out so many fictioneers. They tumble off his creative assembly line so fast as to astound you. And Edward Kimbrough is one of the best if not quite the best Professor Strode has made.

HARRY HARRISON KROLL,
U. T. Junior College, author of "The Usurper," "I Was a Share-Cropper," etc.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

The Color Line

LOOD ON THE FORGE. By William Attaway. 279 pp. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. \$2.

DURING and for several months after the close of the first World War a shortage of man power existed in the Pennsylvania and West Virginia steel industry. Attracted by wages of \$4 a day, Southern farm Negroes moved North to enter the steel mills. From the point of view of tenant farmers living in a state of virtual peonage the low wages of the mill workers seemed riches, while there was an additional inducement to desert the land in the expectation of enjoying greater social freedom. The mass migration which drained large sections of the South of its farm labor, causing a new problem for agriculturists, also created a series of problems for Northern employers and labor leaders. At the time the unions were conducting their initial efforts to organize the steel industry on a closed-shop basis and the employers were relying increasingly on Negroes as strike-breakers. Consequently the unions watched this influx with mounting anxiety. Also to be reckoned with was the fear of the white workers that they might eventually be displaced by Negroes willing to accept lower wages and working conditions. These and other aspects of the Southern Negro migration are touched upon in this story of the three Moss brothers—Melody, Chinatown and Big Mat—who abandon their worn-out tenant farm in the red clay hills of Kentucky to work in a West Virginia steel mill. Through the narration of their experience as industrial workers we perceive social and economic issues that are part of the history of an epoch.

Written by a Negro author with notable objectivity, this is a starkly realistic story involving social criticism as searching as any to be found in contemporary literature; but Mr. Attaway, though his protagonists are of his own race, has not singled out the Negro as the sole victim of unjust conditions. He shows native white Americans and immigrant Slavs working under the same system of low pay, cruelly long hours and unnecessary hazards to life and limb. Many of these injustices have since been rectified, but that fact does not detract from the story value of a tale which holds one's attention primarily by its realistic characterizations, the vividness and intensity of dramatic moments and its pathos. There is a double theme: the Negro competing with the white man in an abnormal condition of the labor market, and the man of the soil forced to make an adjustment with urban industrial life.

Big Mat, a physical giant with the mentality of a child who has never learned to play, tries to remain faithful to his wife, Hattie, who waits in Kentucky until he shall have earned enough money to send for her. He reads his Bible regularly and saves his pay. His brothers persuade him to attend a dog fight, where he meets Anna, a Mexican girl of the red light district, and yields to the urgings of his physical nature. Like other unmarried steel workers, Melody and Chinatown spend their pay on corn whisky, dice and women. The greater social freedom for Negroes turns out to be largely delusive, for their chief competitors, the Slavs, hate them, while white Americans and Irish preserve a guarded attitude. When the union organizers appear the black workers are easily brought into the employers' camp, being persuaded that, as the least efficient racial group, their only chance of continuing on the job consists in making the

best of present conditions.

Working in the terrific heat of blast furnaces and open hearths while under a complex of moral and emotional tensions, the brothers fall under the spell that ensnares all steel men. But one sees in the attitude of these black men something more—a transference of their mystical worship of earth to that other primal element, fire, yet not without a struggle and a haunting sense of apostasy. Earth will be avenged for man's presumption in converting it into steel.

This novel portraying life in the raw is not for those who shun the unlovely aspects of human nature, who have a distaste for bloodshed and the cruder manifestations of sex. Indeed one of its chief claims to literary distinction consists in its author's refusal to sentimentalize his earthy men and women. The artistic integrity Mr. Attaway evinced in his first book, "Let Me Breathe Thunder," is equally evident in the faithful depiction of the primitive approach to life of a social group on whose laborious efforts the whole scheme of modern industrial life is based.

DRAKE DE KAY.

Nation
New York, N. Y.

GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT. By Charles S. Johnson. Washington: American Council on Education. \$2.25.

This is a study of personality development among Negro youth prepared for the American Youth Commission by the head of the Social Science Department of Fisk University. Based on the most up-to-date tests supplemented by personal interviews, it is a very useful document for the record, even if the conclusions were already well known to many who are not sociologists.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

All Of Life

In the sub-title James Saxon Childers calls *Mumbo Jumbo*, Esquire, his latest travel work, "A Book About the Two Africas." It is that, all right, and a very entertaining, informative, exciting and moving book it assuredly is, too. But all through its reading the thought kept recurring that it is a book about far more than the two Africas—in a very real sense it is a book about all of life. Not all of the petty details, to be sure, nor about all the aspects of life. But about the great and grand sweep of life, from all the beginning that we know much about, down to this present—and with not a little of foreshadowing of the future.

You see and apprehend and feel the two Africas Mr. Childers portrays—the primitive Africa and the modern Africa. But these two Africas are the world and the fate of men, they are the history of man, and on that continent it is as if all the reality and record were existing there simultaneously, side by side.

* * *

The first, overwhelming impression of the Grand Canyon upon many observers suggests that they are seeing thousands of years of time stretched out there before them. Africa, at its present stage of development, possessing still so much that is characteristic of the beginnings of the human ascent, presenting so much that is typical of modern civilization at its highest, and embracing so much of all that lies between these extremes, seems to give much the same sort of suggestion as to the known life of man and his world. At least that is the deeply stirring impression we get from the two Africas so vividly presented by Mr. Childers.

We come upon the wonderful earth which is the mother and the home of all men. We sense its fecundity, its vastness, its grandeur. And we come upon men in their early, simple gropings, men in the complex thoughts, hopes and endeavors which distinguish their highest push upward.

We see the minute and trivial, the enormous and the magnificent, in human, animal and inanimate life. We see the comic and the tragic, strange superstition and overwhelming reality. It is as if we see the long, slow ascent of man, still going on, almost from the beginning to the levels which now

In the terrific pressures of this particular time, it is somehow strengthening and heartening to have this longer perspective stretched out before the mind and intimated to the heart. It helps one to feel that whatever may be the sorrows and tribulations of man, the way continues to lead upward. Look at Africa and see that, know that. Aside from all the deeper significance which this book suggests, it is an absorbing record of wide and privileged human obser-

have been reached. All there in Africa. And intimations and a pervasive sense of it all are conveyed by Mr. Childers' book.

* * *

ation, a presentation of all kinds of things that great interest and concern people. Mr. Childers' program of life and time is achieved not by labored effort, difficult of assimilation, but by simple, easy narrative, sharply and economically told, wisely selective amid a limitless mass of material. Thus he achieves a living whole, the impact, the drama and the wonder of life itself.



Photo by Madame Yevonde, London.

Marguerite Steen.

A Vast Historical Novel By Marguerite Steen

*"The Sun Is My Undoing" Is a Spacious 1,176-Page Pageant
Of the Eighteenth Century Slave Trade Days*

THE SUN IS MY UNDOING. By Marguerite Steen. 1,176 pp. New York: The Viking Press. \$3.

By MARGARET WALLACE

OURS is a day when vast historical novels are the rule. The public appetite for large-scale reinterpretation of the past has reached a pitch unknown since the great

successes of Walter Scott were a blazing literary phenomenon. It is a fashion, of course, and may be expected to pass. So far it has been an American fashion, and one which English novel-

ists have been little inclined to follow. But now a gifted English-woman, Marguerite Steen, has brought the vogue to what must be accounted a climax of some kind.

It is hardly likely, considering the mechanics of book publishing, that single-volume novels can get much longer than this. (Just for the record, "The Sun Is My Undoing" tops "Gone With the Wind" by more than a hundred pages.) And if novels are to become not only longer but more colorful and violent and absorbing than this one, it can be only at the expense of business of all other sorts. Marguerite Steen has written good stories before now—notably her Spanish trilogy "Matador," "The Tavern" and "The One-Eyed Moon." She has written nothing, it seems fair to say, which commands attention as this gigantic chronicle is bound to do.

In the length of "The Sun Is My Undoing" Miss Steen has allowed nothing padded or superfluous. Rich in description though it is, the description is necessary to fix in the reader's mind her widely ranging scenes—the Bristol waterfront in the great days of the slave trade, the houses of rich merchants and ship-owners like Hercules Flood; the reeking 'tween decks of a slave ship and the steaming swamps and poisonous jungles of the African Gold Coast; the luxurious plantations and stiff Havana mansions of the Cuban sugar planters; the gilded and uneasy palaces of Madrid during the days when the monarchy tottered before the threat of Napoleonic invasion.

So closely woven is the story itself that it would have been difficult, if not actually destructive, to break it into two volumes. The chain of events which follows the death of Hercules Flood leads half around the world and involves the lives and destinies of three generations, but it is as stout as the Cassiopeia's anchor

thew, had beguiled the old gentleman's last hours with a drinking bout and cock-fight staged in his bedroom.

It was lucky that every one knew Matthew had no expectations from his grandfather's estate. Otherwise, when a make-shift will penned on that last night came to light, the scandal might have been even uglier. The resultant suit at law convulsed Gloucestershire. While it was pending Matthew had plenty of credit for a change and plenty of time to conduct his courtship of the beautiful but rather formidable Pallas Burmester. Pallas, too, belonged to her time. Something of a feminist and blue-stocking, she was deeply interested in the abolitionist move-

ment. Though no one, certainly not a handsome and strapping fellow like Matthew, took such maidenly enthusiasms seriously.

He had already arranged to enter the slave trade. When the Flood fortune should be his he did not mean to enjoy it in idleness. Money was made to increase, and even flourishing Bristol was too small a stage for the operations Matthew contemplated. He was furious and incredulous when he found Pallas Burmester as stubborn as himself. In a black rage he boarded the Cassiopeia and sailed for the Gold Coast, determined to carve himself a share of the riches of Africa and to tear the lovely

cable. The death of Hercules Flood was sufficiently scandalous. The year was 1760, and the stout, purple-faced shipping magnate had the manners and appetites of his century. His grandson, Mat-

image of Pallas out of his heart. Matthew Flood was a big man with a passionate egotism that matched his size. It is his spirit that runs, little diluted, through the generations of this novel. Quite as continuous, perhaps, is the influence of the Flood fortune. Matthew enjoyed his golden luck briefly. For a brilliant and shocking season he kept open house in Havana and flaunted his handsome, savage mistress in the face of Creole society. It was a freak of fate that gave the mulatto daughter he never saw a claim upon his fortune. Matthew disappeared from view when the Cassiopeia was captured by Barbary pirates. But the English courts, distributing his estate, held that the little girl in a Cuban convent was his legitimate heir.

"The Sun Is My Undoing" has more than a touch of the formality and lavishness of the eighteenth century in its manner. Some of its incidents might have come from the stilted pages of Richardson, but it owes its bizarre and authentic feeling to the spirit that wrote the "Castle of Otranto" and built Strawberry Hill. Rococo and extravagant it may be, but only the art of a superb story-teller could have laced together so intricately the story of the Bristol Floods and those who mingled in their veins the dark, imperious blood of Sheba from the Combre River country.

More than this, only a novelist of remarkable skill and learning could have turned such a story into a period piece, so true to its time and place that most works of actual history grow pale in comparison.

Mrs. Wheaton, Winner of Prize For Novel, Glad Secret's Out

**'Mr. George's Joint,' Story of Negro Life in
Texas, Brings \$2500 to Former Rice Student**

By JOHN MURPHY,
Post Staff Correspondent
TEXAS CITY, July 29 (Sp)—
Tuesday was a great day in the life
of Elizabeth Lee Wheaton.

It wasn't great, however, because
Mrs. Wheaton had just been publicly
announced as the winner of the
\$2500 Thomas Jefferson Southern
Award for the year's outstanding
book on the South, "Mr. George's
Joint." It was great because now
she could talk about the news she
had known since July 4 and had
been forbidden to tell.

Mrs. Wheaton, blonde and smiling
and very domestic looking in her
small Texas City home, was very
happy about the whole business, but
modestly shy of such words as
"honor" and "authoress."

"Mr. George's Joint," a story on
the life of negroes in a small Texas
town, "G. W.," Mrs. Wheaton said,
"about two years ago. G. W. (Mr.
Wheaton, a railroad executive here)
and myself kept telling our neigh-
bors about the funny things negro
people do and say and they in turn
kept urging us to write a book
about them. So we did."

Mrs. Wheaton was divided in her
praise for the folks who helped her,
divided between her husband, "G.
W.," and "Lily," the negro maid at
the Wheaton's, without whom, both
the authoress and her husband
agree, the book could never have
been written.

"It was Lily who really helped
me create the composite characters
in the book, Mrs. Wheaton declared.

"In fact, she herself is represented
in 'Mr. George's Joint' in Magnolia,
the main negro woman character."

Lily, it seems, is quite an impor-
tant part of the Wheaton house-
hold. When it was suggested that
Mrs. Wheaton pose for a picture in
the kitchen, she objected, saying:

"I'm afraid Lily wouldn't like
that. She never likes for me to go
in the kitchen."

Lily Will Share

Lily, it seems, will also share in
the Wheaton's good fortune of win-
ning a \$2500 prize. Informed of the
award, Mrs. Wheaton said Lily
quickly came back with:

"Zelm and 'em (her children) will
sure get some good school clothes
now!"

Mrs. Wheaton went on to explain



ELIZABETH LEE WHEATON

that writing her book, in three
negro dialects, became quite tire-
some to her and her husband at
times "but even when we were most
tired, the book seemed very funny
to us. Then it was that we felt we
had a good book when we had to
laugh when we were very tired."

Writing, Mrs. Wheaton confessed,
is a natural talent with her, along
with ability at acting and in music.
Early in her life, she said, she had
opportunities to go on the stage as
an actress or as a singer and again
she had chances in the writing pro-
fession. The book is her first at-
tempt at book writing, however.

Attended Rice

Daughter of the late Percival
King Fulton, who for many years
published the Houston Bulletin, she
attended Rice Institute, Southwest
Texas State Teachers' college and

later taught school at Texas City. Influence is felt, of course; occa-
After a year of teaching she met sionally he intrudes for one reason
"G. W." and got married. or another, but here he has no
"Mr. George's Joint" will come off place and what happens here he
the press about Nov. 1 and will be usually makes no effort to under-
published by E. P. Dutton & Co., stand.
Inc.

Oh, yes. About the destiny of with extraordinary insight, com-
that \$2500. plete objectivity, and precise and
simple art. In the opinion of the

"Well," Mrs. Wheaton laughed, judges, 'Mr. George's Joint' is a
"it's going in the bank until the judges, 'Mr. George's Joint' is a
ing materials go down, then, maybe, unique expression of the experience
we'll build the two-story home I've of colored people, and as such it
been dreaming of all these years." may well become a classic."

View of Judges

The judges of the contest—J. Donald Adams, editor of the New
York Times Book Review; Archi-
bald Bolling Shepperson, editor of
the Virginia Quarterly Review, and
George Moreby Acklom, editor of
E. P. Dutton & Co.—selected Mrs.
Wheaton's "Mr. George's Joint" for
"its artistic truth and rich human
appeal."

The judges commented: "Many
works of fiction have dealt with the
negro and his place in American
life. Some have been romantic, pre-
senting the colored man as a quaint
and sentimental survival from
Southern life before the War be-
tween the States.

"Of this kind of negro whom she

New York Times

New York, N. Y.

In the Carolina Low Country

**HOME ON THE RIVER. The
Story of Hampton Plantation.
By Archibald Rutledge. 197
pp. Illustrated. Indianapolis:
Bobbs Merrill. \$3.**

A RCHIBALD RUTLEDGE
writes with deep feeling
of the Carolina Low Coun-
try; and he has reason in this
book to do so, for it is the story
of his return to his ancestral
home. After many years as a
master in a Pennsylvania school,
he went back to live at Hampton,
the plantation of the Rutledges
since 1686. He restored the beau-
tiful pillared mansion with care,
and largely with his own hands.
He found about the place many
ancient tiles and implements
which told of the life of genera-
tions past. In his restorations he
sought to preserve the spirit of
Hampton's builders. Because it
had been soundly built, it had
withstood the years. Mr. Rut-
ledge's account of his work in re-
newing the simple glories of
Hampton is one which leads read-
ers to share his joys.

His return to the banks of the
Santee was a homecoming to the
rivers, fields and marshes of
whose broad reaches he has writ-
ten so vividly. Mr. Rutledge is
even more at home outdoors than
in, and he finds the wild life about
Hampton still powerful. The lure
it always has had for him from
his boyhood days. Birds, animals,
trees and shrubs in that lux-
uriantly growing region—for all
these he had the love of one
who knew them intimately. The
people, too, especially the Ne-
groes of the Low Country, who
are so distinctive in their char-

acteristics, meant for Mr. Rut-
ledge a return to a scene and life
rich in material for his pen. The
many full-page photographs of
Hampton House, land and peo-
ple fall in admirably with the
spirit of his narrative.

CHARLES MCD. PUCKETTE.

**The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.**

**Ford Writes
On Negroes
And the War**

"The Negro People and the New
World Situation," by James W.
Ford, price 1 cent, is the first pam-
phlet on the Negro's stake in the
fight against Hitlerism to be issued
since Nazi Germany's criminal at-
tack on the Soviet Union. In this
pamphlet, Ford elaborates an 8-
point program of action "for greater
collaboration between the Negro
people's movement and the organ-
ized labor movement. . . and to
unite all the forces and organiza-
tions of the Negro people" in the
fight for national unity against
Hitler fascism. This is an excep-
tionally important pamphlet which
will be tremendously helpful to ac-
tive workers and progressives, Ne-
gro and white. Send your order at
once.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

Vehanen's Portrait of Marian Anderson

MARIAN ANDERSON: A Portrait. By Kosti Vehanen. Illustrated. 270 pp. New York: Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company. \$2.50.

THIS "portrait" of Marian Anderson is set forth in the personal recollections of her Finnish accompanist, the pianist and composer who has been the professional associate of her ten years of triumph. The book is thus the story of the singer's career from a decade ago. It makes no pretense of being a biography. Mr. Vehanen first heard Miss Anderson sing in Berlin in 1931, when a Stockholm concert manager had asked him to give his opinion on her recital possibilities for Sweden. She was singing only Negro spirituals then; it was in Helsinki, some time later, that Mr. Vehanen first heard her in other music. After her first rather tentative engagement in Stockholm "the number of recitals soon grew to scores, then to hundreds. She completed three concert seasons in Scandinavia before she began her long European tour," and at her first Helsinki recital she came near to suffering physically from the crowds' surging enthusiasm as she made her way from the concert hall.

The book which records these things is not very skillfully written, but its facts are naturally interesting. Mr. Vehanen recalls the singer's visit to Jean Sibelius—who dedicated a song to Marian Anderson in 1939—and has a well-filled chapter on her experiences in Russia—where Schubert's "Ave Maria" had to be announced without religious reference, merely as "an aria." A private recital makes an interesting item from Salzburg, where a famous audience included Arturo Toscanini and Bruno Walter. Triumph in concert at the Paris Opéra was followed by a South American tour. There are pleasant personal glimpses of the singer, too, and a few sympathetic anecdotes. The book closes with the Easter recital before the

Lincoln Memorial in 1939 and thus does not include the Bok award or Miss Anderson's other recent American triumphs. It is most interesting in its record from Europe.

Father of the Blues

W. C. Handy, Famed Negro Composer, Relates His Career in Music

Reviewed by Velma K. Soule

GIVE a negro an incident—any troublesome incident—and he will make you a song about it if he feels bad enough.

This instinct of the race to express its sorrows in song is the true source of blues music, according to W. C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," who has written his autobiography under that title.

Handy is not, as is popularly believed, the originator of syncopation. He is the recorder of a type of rhythm that antedates his time and stems back to the primitive African.

Slavery, ultimate emancipation and their attendant trials for the negro race gave rise to certain lugubrious, yet tuneful, wailing of troubles in terms of song that is typical of the race.

Handy's fight for a musical career against the wishes of his devoutly religious father to whom music was a thing of the devil is told fascinatingly in his biography. It is first and last a history of the rise of blues music from the obscure negro cabarets and the water tanks of the South to what is generally conceded as this country's contribution to the world of music.

WHILE it remained for Dvorak and others to lift the negro spirituals into the realm of the classics, it was Handy's tenacity and devotion to the cause of negro music that laid the foundation for such recognition.

Gentle, understanding, kindly and highly sensitive to the handicaps under which his race was working its way up from slavery, Handy never lost sight of his early desire to make of negro music something more than a personal success.

Nothing, he says, made him glow so much as seeing the softening effect of music on racial antagonisms. It was to this end that he worked, eking out a living by assembling bands of negro musicians and playing whatever engagements he could get in and around Florence, Memphis and the Mississippi Delta country.

His career finally took him to New York as publisher and writer of negro music and

it was here, under the strains of bankruptcy and temporary blindness, that he came to realize the value of the new type of music he had given the world.

HANDY, author of "St. Louis Blues," "Beale Street Blues" and many other popular compositions, collaborated with Abbe Niles in 1925 on an anthology of blues music which was illustrated by Miguel Covarrubias. It was one of the first books on American secular songs and said to be the first devoted to the influence of negro secular music on American popular jazz and serious music.

Handy closes the story of his life with the observation that if, as his childhood teacher predicted, music brought him to the gutter, it also gave him a glimpse of heaven; if, as his father said, he was "trotting down to hell on a fast horse in a porcupine saddle," he rode with a song on his lips and its echo in his heart.

Anyone interested in the history of American music will find this book an invaluable source of material. And anyone looking for an interesting, well-written autobiography can not fail to enjoy this book.

Father of the Blues, an Autobiography. By W. C. Handy; The Macmillan company, New York; \$3.

Nation

New York, N. Y.

DRUMS AND SHADOWS. Survival Studies Among the Georgia Coastal Negroes. By the Savannah Unit, Georgia Writers' Project. Foreword by Guy B. Johnson. Photographs by Muriel and Malcolm Bell, Jr. University of Georgia Press. \$3.

For various reasons African survivals are especially clear in the folklore of the Georgia Negroes. This careful and scientific survey, with an appendix of cross-references to the work of African anthropologists, is valuable source material for the sociologist. It is also interesting reading for its own sake, though the interest is diminished by repetition. The book is an exceptionally beautiful example of modern printing and binding.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

New Books by Richard Wright

Richard Wright, distinguished Negro novelist, has abandoned fiction for the moment to write a book on a subject about which he has deep personal interest. The author of "Native Son" tells in "12 Million Black Voices" his own story of the Negro in America. Into the book are woven a large collection of photographs selected and edited by Edwin Rosskam. To be published in October by Viking.

Big books by world-famous authors are scattered through Viking's fall list from September to Christmas. On Sept. 22 comes "The Viking Book of Poetry" (of the English-Speaking World), a new anthology, edited by Richard Aldington.

Viking's October publications include Carl Van Doren's "Secret History of the American Revolution." It is an account of bribery, coercion and treachery based on newly discovered evidence about Benedict Arnold and a number of other famous revolutionary leaders whose coats the British tried to turn.

In "Sea of Cortez," John Steinbeck drops the role of novelist for the moment, and writes a volume of popular science. The book is an account of the scientific "fishing" trip Steinbeck made recently with his biologist friend, Edward F. Ricketts.

8-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

The Negro Family

Prof. Frazier's Book Opens Up Vital Field in His 'Negro Family in the U.S.'

THE NEGRO FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES. By E. Franklin Frazier. University of Chicago Press. 686 pp. \$4.00.

By BEN DAVIS, JR. NOV 23 1941

MR. FRAZIER—who heads the Department of Sociology at Howard University, leading Negro institution—has pioneered in this field. The fact that this book won the John Anisfield prize as the "best book of the year" on race relations emphasizes its importance. It is moreover one of several works in the University of Chicago's Sociological series which enjoys much prestige.

The book reveals industry, documentation and research on a phase of American life either grossly neglected or terribly maligned.

The subject is a particularly fruitful one and timeless because changing national and international developments are constantly finding their reflections in the mirror of family life. The topic offers the opportunity for a splendid and scientific treatment of the Negro people, which will reveal their development from feudal chattel slavery to full-fledged nationhood under capitalism. This book introduces the discussion but it falls far short of reaching tenable scientific conclusions.

Must Reject Main Thesis

In this work, Mr. Frazier does not go to the decisive economic roots of the matter, except in brief flashes here and there. Because of this the work falls into many errors. Much of the material relied upon is considerably unsubstantial and one-sided and therefore gives a distorted picture of the Negro family. The case selection is faithful to the author's approach, but the approach is not justified by experience or life itself. And the book's main thesis—which proffers a solution of the ills of the Negro people—has to be rejected.

In dealing with the early crystallization of the Negro family, the book is deserving of less criticism. When brought from Africa, the Negro slaves had to radically adjust their lives to meet the new conditions of feudal slavery. This family, as we know it today, was virtually impossible, for the slaves were sold with ruthless inhumanity on the slave market, mother from child and husband from wife. Legal marriage was a luxury not permitted to a people who were wholesale victims of barbarous slave-breeding. Negro women were at the mercy of the slaveowners, although the book obscures this dominant situation by relying too heavily on instances of voluntary relations between slave women and the master class. Further on, the book seems to make a virtue out of the invasions of Negro womanhood by the slaveocrats who are held virtually to have transmitted to the Negro people by violating their womanhood.

NO

On the other hand, the book points out that during slavery, the matriarchate type of family was the rule and that consequently the patriarchate type of family did not arise and become stabilized until emancipation, when the father, as chief breadwinner, became head of the house. Although the Negro woman challenged this position, because she had to (and still does) supplement her husband's wages in

the labor market, she lost her dominant position and became more or less enslaved to her husband and to domestic drudgery. Such is the lot of working woman of all races, creeds and colors under capitalism—and it becomes a thousand times worse under fascism, where the man becomes a factory slave and the woman a child-breeder.

Family Life in the Soviet Union

Mr. Ernest W. Burgess, in the editor's preface, doesn't seem to hold out any hope that this situation will ever be changed. To him the highest development of family life seems to be co-extensive with the existence of capitalism. He completely misunderstands the Socialist society of the Soviet Union and finds that family life exists there despite the Socialist state power. In the Soviet Union, the woman has been completely emancipated from economic dependence upon the man and therefore enters into marriage on an equal footing with the man. There marriage becomes a matter of individual love, permitting free choice to both parties. But Mr. Burgess condemns the Soviet marriage as a "private arrangement between husband and wife," which is indeed its greatest virtue. While marriage is supposed to be free under capitalism, it is more often the hapless victim of the vagaries of the labor market and of the thousand other reactionary factors which capitalism forces into the family. It is strange, indeed, that the book did not note the excellent manner in which the Soviet Union has solved the question of national minorities—the only way in which it can be solved.

In its direct political interpretations and solutions the book gets into serious trouble. The class structure within the Negro people is recognized but placed upon an incorrect and superficial color basis. The mulattos, contend the author, represent the upper class; the middle class represents a Negro of brown complexion, and the proletariat is black. While it is true in many instances that the mulattos directly springing from the slaveowners were endowed with superior property and financial advantages, it must be recognized that today the small upper class group among the Negroes is basically determined by economic ascendancy not by color. The middle class is marked by the rise of a Negro professionals and small business people, primarily and not by their intermarriage with the mulattos. The black proletariat, according to the author, is determined largely by its color and not its entry into the industrial production of the nation.

Believing that the upper class represents the "custodians" of the culture of the Negro people, it follows naturally that places in this group the salvation of the Negro people. And the "white man's culture," which Mr. Frazier glorifies, is not Negro but is the dying culture of the slaveowners against which not only the Negro people are in revolt, but an increasing number of the white folk, indicated in the recent demonstrations against Talmadge in Georgia. The attempt to give light color a monopoly of the integrity and culture of the Negro people is useful only to the reactionaries who would divide the Negro from within. (One need only to refer to the advertisements in the capitalist press calling for light-colored Negro domestics.) Moreover, the author seems to think this class is fully emancipated. But can it vote in Mississippi?

NOV 23 1941

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Personal Wilderness

BIRD OF THE WILDERNESS, by Vincent Sheean. Random House. \$2.50.

NOV 25 1941

IN *Bird of the Wilderness* Vincent Sheean furnishes a belated prologue to his *Personal History*. This novelized account of the author's adolescence is also a key to the later Sheean—to his analysis of himself against a background of wars, revolutions, and politics in general.

Bill Owen was seventeen years old in 1916, a year before America entered World War I. He had grown up in the Midwest, where "the summer of desperate heat follows the bitter winter with only a brief, wet interval between them to mark the place of spring." The town in which he lived, Parkerton, Ill., "contained one object lesson in freedom and slavery which no moderately intelligent or imaginative child could miss. Negroes were not allowed to live there . . . except old Johnston, the barber, who had been in Parkerton since long before the riots. . . . How could it be, then, that here in Lincoln's own country there was no freedom for the very people he had died to save?"

Bill's mother, Louisa, was German-born and had come to this country in her childhood; his father, a gusty American of Welsh ancestry, had abandoned Bill's mother when their son was only five. The boy was raised in a household that was German middle class in outlook. But Bill Owen felt himself different from his German relatives; he wasn't a good Lutheran and the sober, dull scheme of personal life didn't appeal to him.

The drive toward war, sweeping inward from the eastern seaboard, caught up Parkerton, too. It served to generate, to intensify, and finally to resolve the adolescent conflicts in young Owen's life as he left Parkerton to join the army. Leaving Parkerton at the same time, but going elsewhere, was the young school teacher, Saki Carpenter, who had encouraged Bill to read Chaucer. "The necessity of saying goodbye kept them often silent; when he held her in his arms he could feel the hot tears on her face. She was terrified of the embraces to which she yielded as if against her own will; they were too young and too ignorant, she kept telling him."

And thus the end of an adolescent chapter, very readable, and with some faint echoes of

Young Bill was understandably confused; when his father came to Parkerton once, got drunk, and was thrown in jail, the boy was in a turmoil. He couldn't tell his mother about it. At this difficult time he needed help. His mind ran over all the people whom he knew, but not one invited trust—except Big Joe. Bill "had the impulse to tell Big Joe the whole story." He also felt that he could talk "with Mr. Johnston, the gentle and placid Negro barber." But Bill didn't really know Big Joe or Mr. Johnston well. Big Joe was a Bohemian miner who lived in a hill shack and he had once told Bill that World War I was an imperialist war. And so, young Bill got through it all somehow, without ever telling Joe.

And in the end, you find yourself thinking of Big Joe, the vague and friendly character on the other side of the tracks. Big Joe could have helped Bill—he was that kind of a guy. But even long afterward, when Bill Owen had seen lots more of the world and had told all about it in *Personal History* he could never bring himself to "go to Joe"—to the many fine, courageous Joes he encountered from China to France. In China he encountered Rayna Prohme and Madame Sun Yat-sen, in Morocco, Abd-el-Krim. He was given innumerable firsthand opportunities to observe and study people who were models of strength, will power, and plain decency as contrasted to a gallery of suave and brutal imperialist agents and ministers. There was no question in the mind of the later Owen—the "Owen" of *Personal History*—who the "right" people were. Yet they remained admirable, idealized, possibly envied—and always distant. He could eloquently prove that the "Joes" had the right idea. But at the tail end of his analysis he must retire, abase himself—"I'm not good enough. I need peace of mind. I like luxury and admit it," etc.

For Owen they always remain distant, admirable—and possibly envied. From the adolescent bewilderment of *Bird of the Wilderness* Owen graduated in *Personal History* to a more mature penetration of life—and yet there was always that perverse streak of confusion and reluctance to realize fully which, as revealed in *Bird of the Wilderness*, is the prologue and key to latter indecision.

ALFRED GOLDSMITH.

Black Voices

BY HORACE R. CAYTON

ALTHOUGH this column usually concerns itself with labor and economic questions, this week I'm taking time out for a book review. Some of you may wonder what book is important enough to divert my attention from the industrial scene when things are happening with such rapidity. The answer is the new book, "12 Million Black Voices," by Richard Wright and Edwin Rosskam.

In the first place, it is my opinion that Richard Wright is a great writer; not a great Negro writer, but the real McCoy. Probably one reason why I think this, is because he is writing about a social scene with which I am very familiar. With my associates in Sociology and Social Anthropology, I studied the social, economic, and psychological background which produced Bigger Thomas of "Native Son." For every adjective which Wright used, we have a table; for every move that Bigger made, we have a map; for every personality type he encountered, we have a life history. What I am trying to get over is the fact that, in general, a large research which was carried on in Chicago's Black Belt for a period of four years substantiated the entire thesis of "Native Son." We produced the material, we know the story, but we could not state it in the power form it needed. We will also write a book about Chicago but it won't sell three hundred thousand copies nor reach one per cent of that number of readers nor have the social impact of Wright's book. That's why I think Wright is a great writer—and by now I guess you have gathered that it is going to be a 'rave' notice.



Mr. Cayton

THE new book is magnificent in its simplicity, directness and force. It is the obverse side of "Native Son" for it is a study of the habitat, the milieu, the social matrix from which warped social personalities such as Bigger Thomas arise and will continue to arise until there is some fundamental change in the position and status of the American Negro.

FORCEFUL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENT

BUT "12 Million Black Voices" is more than just description; it is a philosophy of the history of the Negro in America and a frame of reference for the study of Negro-white relations in this country. It seems hard for me to see just how any intelligent social observer can disagree with Wright. The experi-

ence of the Negro through slavery to the "Shadows of the Plantation" during the mass migration are described in the first two sections. It was the chapter on the city, however, that intrigued my imagination. For those of you who have worked on the problems which confront urban Negroes—who are, for example, interested in housing—the force and power of these passages are thrilling:

"The Kitchenette is our prison, our death sentence without a trial, the new form of mob violence that assaults not only the lone individual, but all of us, in its ceaseless attacks."

"The Kitchenette, with its filth and foul air, with its one toilet for thirty or more tenants, kills our black babies so fast that in many cities twice as many of them die as white babies."

IT'S not a pretty picture that Wright paints but he has two answers for that possible criticism. He states in the preface that he is not writing about the "talented tenth," that group of largely mulattoes who, because of fortuitous circumstances, blood relationship with whites or historical accident,

were able to escape from the black masses and achieve positions of security, cultural advantage, and comfort. Many persons will not like the book. They will say that it shows the worst side of Negro life, that white people should not be told about all of these things. To them Wright says:

"As our jobs begin to fall in another depression, our lives and the lives of our children grow so frightful that even some of our educated black leaders are afraid to make known to the nation how we exist. They become ashamed of us and tell us to hide our wounds."

SCENES ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE

This review, or no review of the book, would not be complete without some mention of the marvelous photographs which illustrate the text. The pictures were taken by the Photographic Section of the Farm Security Administration and edited by Edwin Rosskam. Recently, I had an opportunity of looking over the entire 1500 shots which were taken in Chicago alone. When I had finished, my reply to Rosskam was that I, who had helped to pick out the scenes and had worked with him in Chicago, could not believe what I had seen. Unrelieved by riding through better neighborhoods on the way for other shots, to turn over these 1,500 pic-

WRIGHT'S NEW BOOK MORE THAN A STUDY OF SOCIAL STATUS

Georgia Woman Writes C.M.E.'s Church History

By C. E. CHAPMAN

BIRMINGHAM (A N P)—Outstanding as a leader in religious and fraternal circles, Mrs. L. D. McAfee, Columbus, Ga., has recently taken high ground as an author besides. In addition to her many and varied activities in several important organizations, Mrs. McAfee has published a book called the history of the Woman's Missionary Society in the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

Embodying a wealth of interesting history and citing many outstanding achievements of the woman's organization and of women of her church, the history has been widely acclaimed as one of the most comprehensive, accurate, concise and valuable books of the kind now on the market.

In recognition of her valuable contribution, the denominational leaders among the women of the connectional missionary council have selected Mrs. McAfee to fill the position of historian. Mrs. McAfee's husband, the Rev. L. D. McAfee, is a presiding elder of the C.M.E. church and is well known as a legislator and representative from Georgia at the general conference of the church. The L. D. McAfee's own much valuable property

Jane E. Hunter

To The News and Courier:

A year ago there was reviewed in The News and Courier an unusual book recollections of an unusual life's accomplishments, "A Nickle and a Prayer", by Jane E. Hunter, born near Pendleton, S. C., a negro tenant-farmer's daughter, now secretary of the Phillis Wheatley association, of Cleveland, Ohio, a remarkable institution, founded greatly through her personal efforts, for the education, practical training, safe guidance and welfare of young colored women seeking employment in Cleveland and other cities of the North.

"A Nickle and a Prayer" told succinctly, frankly, truthfully and vividly the uncommon experiences of a negro tenant-farmer's daughter, who, from chopping cotton on the red hills of old Ninety-Six district, South Carolina, became through ambition, courage and ability, first a trusted family servant, then a trained nurse, and finally, by inspiration, bravery, determined and long-continued effort and unshaken hope, founder of a remarkable institution for the betterment of a great city's community life and of her own race.

"A Nickle and a Prayer" attracted immediate attention by the evidence authentically of its story, its earnest purpose, frankness and vivid interest, and is now in a second edition.

It has won also for its author well-deserved and singular distinction. Jane Hunter has been appointed by Mrs. Roosevelt a member of the National Advisory committee programs under the WPA; and by virtue of that appointment serves also on the Ohio State Advisory commission.

For some years as vice president of the Ohio Federation of Colored Women, Jane Hunter has been striving to bring to light disgraceful conditions affecting negro girls at one of the state institutions for reformation of delinquent girls. The state director of public welfare has now appointed her a member of the committee, of educators and leaders, to investigate, reform and improve conditions at the reformatory under fire. And, on October 23, the leaders of the Cleveland Community Fund conferred upon her an award for meritorious service to the community of Cleveland. Her brief, dignified and modest acceptance was broadcast.

But, in the midst of, and despite these earned distinctions, Jane Hunter still remembers, and does not forget, her birthplace, her kindred in South Carolina, and those who at the beginning of her life were her friends. On the wall of her private office hangs the portrait of a notable South Carolina woman, whose influence and personal kindness were inspirational to the young girl in her employ forty years ago.

Jane Hunter's accomplishments as a remarkable representative of her

race and birthplace are worth more than careless and casual note. JOHN BENNETT, Charleston, S. C.

New Republic
New York, N. Y.

Cotton Tenantry

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, by James Agee and Walker Evans. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 487 pages. \$3.50.

AGEE AND EVANS went "down" into the lives of three white tenant families, indicative of cotton tenantry at large, watched them, studied them, became them (at infrequent moments), and made a book. It is easier to say what the book isn't than what it is. It is not straight reporting or a naturalistic account or a documentation or a narrative impression. Its immediate aim is to tell the untellable conditions of living in a section of the richest country in the world. Agee's method is not simple; many techniques are employed—photographs, poetry, "items," listings, orations, dramatic episodes, self-analysis, a kind of stream of consciousness, footnotes, the direct appeal to the reader—most of them suggesting the difficulties and the almost insurmountable ethical concerns the writer experienced in his relations with these men and women and children. It is a heterogeneous book. It is an appeal for a continuous *tension* and it is a propaganda intended to corrode our habitual acceptances. It is a book about Mr. Agee. It is a book that refuses to call itself a book.

Now Mr. Agee does a good deal to antagonize the reader. There are too many tongues, too many attitudes, too many awarenesses on the subjective side (perhaps defenses would be more precise); even the sincerity is too much, too prostrate. And yet, visible through all this, are some unmistakable virtues: Mr. Agee, at times, writes brilliantly (the episode "Near a Church" is as fine a piece of prose and honesty as one can find in American literature); he is extraordinarily sensitive and aware and, above all, concerned with that deeper honesty that assembles before itself all those minute rationalizations and nuances of feeling that are always a kind of havoc inside ourselves.

Innumerable problems are raised with regard to method, communication, art, etc. These people are real, Mr. Agee insists, these people are *alive*. And yet it is the work itself that should make them so and not an *a-priori* statement. "These words are quoted to mislead those who will be misled by them." What on earth for? Is this really looking at the object before you or is it a "crankiness" on the author's side? And Mr. Agee makes you feel that nobody before him

has so perceived the terrified Negro, has felt so sensitively about him. This may be true, but there is something of the martyr in it that need not have been suggested. And in the end it is Agee himself who emerges the protagonist, rather than the Gudgers or the Ricketts or the Woods. Is this, then, a failure? Mr. Agee's theory would declare it so and yet Mr. Agee's practice recognizes the interrelationships between subject and object, between Agee and the Gudgers.

Which brings us into the problem of the photograph. Here there is, by the very nature of the medium, a more possible identification. The shutter has no prejudices. But when Mr. Agee brings you face to face with the woman who is biting her hand there is an impulse to reject Mr. Agee's belief that the camera's function is "to perceive simply the cruel radiance of what is." There is a fine and complicated sensibility at work in that photograph.

Whatever the case, whether attracted or repelled, whether for or against, it is a rich, many-eyed book and ought to be looked into.

HARVEY BREIT

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Aptheker Writes New Work on Negro History

THE NEGRO IN THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT. By Herbert Aptheker. International Publishers. 48 pp. 15 cents.

By John Pittman

Future historians of the American people will have an easier time of it because of the efforts of men like Herbert Aptheker, who has tilted his pen against the windmills of prejudice and falsehood which bar the truth-seekers' way to enlightenment on the role of the Negro in our national development.

In this most recent achievement of careful research, Mr. Aptheker has made a valuable addition to his steadily growing series, which already includes "The Negro in the Civil War," "Negro Slave Revolts 1526-1860," "The Negro in the American Revolution," all International Publishers' works.

Mr. Aptheker's purpose in this work is not to lessen the "just claim on our admiration" of the "dauntless white men and women" . . . who braved the derision of the press and pulpit, faced the taunts and blows of 'respectable' mobs,

tasted the abominations of nineteenth-century prisons rather than cease the struggle for the liberation of millions of Negroes in chains."

His aim is to rectify the neglect by historians of this period of "the Negro soldiers who filled these prisons; who felt the whip's lash on their backs; organized societies long before the American Anti-Slavery Society was born and published newspapers years before The Liberator appeared, and made possible by active support and aid both that society and that newspaper. . . ."

Gets Into

Musty Records 3 1941

Accordingly, the author gets into the musty records, forgotten tomes, and yellowed newspaper files of the period, in order to marshal those facts which refute the "two main deceptions upon which rested the apologetics for the institution of slavery."

The first of these "deceptions" the argument that "the system of slavery was an eminently beneficial one, with ease, contentment and happiness as characteristic of the laboring population," he refutes with evidence of the slaves' attempts not only to escape to freedom, but also to destroy the system of slavery.

Their role in the Abolitionist Movement served both ends.

The other 'deception'—that the people who were enslaved were innately inferior to their masters and so their condition represented merely the adoption in practice of a position predetermined by God—he annihilates with evidence of the exceptional fortitude, organizational ability, and other talents of the Negroes leading and otherwise engaged in the Abolitionist Movement.

Both Negro and white readers of this work find much needed inspiration for coping with the present despotism by the guardians of private property in the stirring and heroic struggles of the Abolitionists against a "vested interest representing billions of dollars' worth of private property."

Besides, it is written with economy, moves swiftly and interestingly.

BOOKS

The Fight for Democracy Is Not in Dakar, But in Harlem, Puerto Rico and Atlanta, Ga.

By SAMUEL PUTNAM

SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY is no friend of the Negro people.

That sounds like a truism, and such indeed it is. Unfortunately, however, it is one that still needs to be hammered home in the minds of many progressive Negroes and their white friends, who are possessed of a deep and sincere interest in the welfare of the Negro race, but who are misled by the Social-Democratic agents of Wall Street and the Wall Street war-makers—by the A. Phillip Randolphs, the Walter Whites and their kind.

Social-Democracy is not only the agent of a jim-crow, imperialistic war, a war that is hostile to the interests of the Negro people and of the American people as a whole; it is at the same time—but suppose we put it in the form of another truism:

Social-Democracy is the tool and ally of the jim-crow imperialist in the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

A Pathetic Display

The latest proof of this—and the evidence, if it were all assembled, would be overwhelming—is a volume just published by a couple of professors, a man and a woman, in the University of Puerto Rico. Your experienced Social-Democrat, with his apparent real interest in social problems and his reformistic preachments, is a pretty smooth article, ordinarily; and with those who are not aware of his game, he gets away with it for a certain length of time; but he is bound to show himself for what he is, sooner or later, and he invariably does so when he tries to get down to brass tacks, that is to say, to basic questions and their solution. That it what happens in the present instance.

There could be no more pathetic display, no more indecent exposure, of the naked poverty of

Social-Democratic thinking than is afforded by this book, entitled "El Negro," and authored by Sr. Jose Colombaro Rosario and Sta. Justina Carrion. (It is, incidentally, the first volume in a series called "Problemas Sociales," or "Social Problems.") Nothing, on the other hand, could show more clearly the real contempt which the Social-Democrats have for the Negro and his age-old culture than does the new that is here set forth and the solution which is proposed.

It is a highly significant fact that in Puerto Rico, "our island possession," jim-crow discrimination is more rampant than anywhere else in Latin America, with the possible exception of the Panama Canal zone, which is under U. S. domination, and where it has definitely been established by imperialist influence. To Latin Americans as a whole, the "color-line," with rare exceptions, is something absolutely foreign. In the hemisphere plague spot that is Puerto Rico, by contrast, it is so flagrant that even a Social-Democrat cannot blink the matter, and so must go into his usual song-and-dance of "explanation" and "solutions."

What is the "explanation" which these two Socialist Party members advance for the 44 cases of color discrimination which they list in an appendix? Is it, by any chance, the influence of the Wall Street invader, who here as everywhere pursues the tactic of setting black against white, one section of labor against another? Don't be silly! That wouldn't be "socialistic"—to a Social-Democrat. No, the fault lies in the

inferiority of the Negro—and remember that the authors are here considering not the Puerto Rican Negro alone, but the Negro of Haiti and the United States as well. And, by way of making their point, they cite a number of passages of prose and poetry, to prove that the Negro's culture is inferior to that of the white man. Their thesis is, that when two cultures, a superior and an inferior one, are brought into contact, the inferior always imitates the superior, with unsatisfactory results.

Incredible But True

The remedy? Well, what do you think the remedy is, as these two apostles of Social-Democracy see it? Outside of a little "reform" here and another there—the customary Social-Democratic tinkering—they can but shed salt-bitter tears and wait—wait until the process of racial assimilation shall have been completed! The idea, of course, of producing a socialist society such as that in the USSR, where all races, cultures and nationalities can live and flourish in happy freedom, would never once occur to them, "socialists" as they pretend to be. They can only wait for the day when the Negro race shall have been completely absorbed by the white, and meanwhile—vote the Socialist Party ticket!

It sounds unbelievable, but it's true. If you don't believe it, get the book (by writing to the University of Puerto Rico) and see for yourself.

The sad part of it all is that many Negroes and their organs of publication permit themselves, consciously or unconsciously, to be used for the machinations of the Social-Democratic traitors within and without their race. A case in point is the **Negro History Bulletin**, which, published monthly from Washington, D. C., contains much material of historical value, but which in its attitude on the war and related questions, follows slavishly the line of the Whites and the Randolphs. The editors and contributors are constantly attacking (in rather polite fashion) the glaring jim-crow that prevails in the armed forces and defense industries; yet they see no inconsistency in supporting the war itself, which, being an imperialist struggle pure and simple, could not possibly be other than

anti-democratic and hence anti-Negro: There is a great deal of talk of "hemisphere defense" and the "fascist peril" in the Western Hemisphere, but none whatever of the peril of Yankee imperialism, not only in the Latin American countries, but right here at home.

Strange Friend Of Negro People

Accordingly, we are not greatly surprised to find the **Negro History Bulletin**, in its June issue, coming out in defense of Mr. Archibald MacLeish as a "friend of the Negro people!" This, needless to say, is no accident. Mr. MacLeish needs a little defending, rather badly just now. Especially on the score of his attitude toward the Negro and Negro culture. With intelligent Negroes, the insult which he recently offered the great Negro poets of the West Indies is still fresh in mind. They have not forgotten, either, how Mr. MacLeish failed to raise his voice or lift a finger in behalf of the Negro bard, Nicolas Guillen, a poet of world-wide reputation, who was prevented by our State Department, a week or so ago, from attending the Fourth American Writers' Congress. Actions speak louder than words. And failure to act sometimes speaks loudest of all.

The leading article in the June issue of the magazine bears the title "Defense and Negro Culture in America," and is written by Charles Anderson Gauld, a research assistant in the Library of Congress (hence on Mr. MacLeish's payroll). Speaking of his boss, the writer says:

"Archibald MacLeish, eloquent spokesman for our government and strong friend of the Negro, has said this war is fought over cultural issues. He believes the nations and races of the American continents must vigorously expand and strengthen their democratic heritage. Mr. MacLeish heads our national library, greatest in the world. He has encouraged the Library of Congress to collect not only the folklore and art of Negroes throughout the New World, but also their songs and books. The Library of Congress is doing work in all these phases of Negro culture. . . . It furnishes facts on the defense of culture against fascism . . ." etc.

As we read, a little further on, of "the pro-Negro" newspaper

PM," we begin to get the picture—

But He Jim-Crowed Negro Poets

Mr. MacLeish, whose official job is Librarian of Congress, actually, out of great goodness of heart—and condescension of soul—permist Negro books and art works to be acquired by the institution that he heads. Therefore: he is a "strong friend of the Negro." He may jim-crow Negro poets, but their volumes are on the Library of Congress shelves! Then, what is this about Mr. MacLeish and an expanding hemisphere democracy? We presume his **Irresponsibles** is an example of this, as well as of the "defense of culture against fascism"!

If Mr. MacLeish is so interested in the "democratic heritage" of the New World, he had his chance in San Juan. Puerto Rico would very much like to expand its democracy. In fact, it would like very much to acquire a little, in order that it might expand it. But the Librarian of Congress did not appear to be aware of this. He was too busy assailing the "Irresponsibles"—i.e., those writers who believe in fighting for democracy, not in Mesopotamia or Dakar, but in Puerto Rico, Harlem, Atlanta, Ga., and points west.

The Underground Railroad and the Abolition Movement

Henrietta Buckmaster Tells the Dramatic Story in "Let My People Go"

LET MY PEOPLE GO. By Henrietta Buckmaster. Illustrated. 398 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. \$3.50. MAR 16 1941

By ROY OTTLEY

THE reign of slavery and the struggle to eliminate it from American life becomes, in the skillful hands of Henrietta Buckmaster, a moving account that stirs the deeper reaches of our emotions. From court records, old newspapers and letters, fugitive tales and hundreds of interviews she has written a story at sharp variance with the conventional picture of the South—the agreeable and patriarchal manner of living, Negroes singing at their work, and lovely women decorating the porticos of classic plantations. A young woman of passionate beliefs, she is fiercely opposed to oppression in any form and in any period. While she traces the angry fight for freedom, she is talking as much about oppression today as about oppression yesterday.

Miss Buckmaster counterpoints two parallel movements—one, the growth of the abolition crusade, with its attendant murders, riots, burnings and terror, against a background of righteous idealism; and the other the romantic story of the Underground Railroad, with its conspiracies, daring escapes and self-sacrifice. In a prologue to her story she documents the great urge for freedom slaves demonstrated long before white men of humanitarian and religious impulse took up the fight. "If the Negro yielded to the slave status with little show of resistance," she observes, "how does one account for the fact that he employed sabotage, engaged in strikes, committed suicide, and mutilated himself; ran away, turned guerrilla, and struck at his master through arson and murder?" In further support of this premise, she cites the organized uprisings led by such slave leaders as Gabriel. Nat

The primary concern of "Let My People Go" is with the activities of the Underground Railroad, which the author says she first visualized as a lengthy tunnel running from the Confederate lines to the North. She discovered that this secret organization, "incorporated" as far back as 1804, existed as a thriving concern until the Civil War. The "road" began informally as a cooperative effort in which Negroes and whites helped slaves to escape their masters. "The first fugitive," she writes, "who asked help from a member of his own race or the enemy race drove the first stake of that 'railroad.'" The Quakers were probably the first group of white men to take up the fight to free the slaves on an organized basis. In this respect their doctrine was simple: slavery was wrong, and any effort to end it right. A Quaker home was always a refuge for a fatigued runaway; after the fugitive received food, he was guided on to the next sympathetic person, who repeated the process. At this time the "railroad" operated with simplicity and directness, but its activities were scattered and disorganized, though fervent. When the slaveholders became alarmed by the wave of runaways and began to employ slave catchers who ruthlessly hunted down the fugitive, the need for skill, resourcefulness and organization became evident. MAR 16 1941

The Underground Railroad took organized shape with the formation of vigilance committees, situated in most of the principal cities of the North. These were groups composed of white and black men who helped runaways to establish themselves, provided transportation, furnished legal aid, and protected those in danger of being kidnapped and sold. A name was given these clandestine activities around 1831 by the slaveholders, who, baffled and frustrated by the manner in

which their slaves escaped, declared that they "must have gone on an underground railroad." Friends of the fugitives good humoredly enhanced the mystery by calling themselves "conductors," "station masters" and "brakemen," and their houses "depots" and "stations," and talked of "catching the next train."

In Boston, meanwhile, "a monumental thing happened"—an uncompromising anti-slavery leader was born in young and impatient William Lloyd Garrison. "I have men's minds to remake," he wrote; "I have a system to destroy, and I have no time to waste." In 1831 the first issue of The Liberator appeared, and across the front page lay his famous "I Will Be Heard" challenge—and "To Hear Him Was to Hear Thunder." He found an immediate audience for the very words that Negroes had been uttering for many years. Anticipating Garrison by four years, free New York Negroes had begun to publish and edit "Freedom's Journal," the first Negro newspaper in the United States, and dedicated to freedom and citizenship for the Negro. "It marked," the author says, "the first intellectual effort of a Negro or white to put the [anti-slavery] struggle on militant lines." Demanding "immediate emancipation," Garrison took up the task of launching an abolition movement, which Miss Buckmaster speaks of as a "people's movement." Soon anti-slavery societies sprang up all over the country as Negro and white joined, the crusade. Branches, scattered throughout the nation, poured out pamphlets and tracts to drive the slavery question into the public scene as a moral issue. Told that abolitionists were fanatics and disrupters of the Union, New York mobs burned down the Negro churches and drove the abolitionists from their meeting places: in Boston, Garrison and

his comrades were ostracized, at twelve hours up to their waists tacked, and the city paralyzed by riots. The fever spread to Norwich, Conn., New Jersey and Philadelphia, where Negroes were attacked and driven out of town. From Maine to Georgia there was an unending stream of vituperation. In the West, Elijah Lovejoy's indignation was so loud against slavery that he was shot to death. MAR 16 1941

By this time the Underground Railroad had become a powerful force. While it touched only a small per cent of the slaves, it nevertheless made slave property so insecure that it allowed the master few moments of relaxation. The answer was the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, which sought to protect property rights in slaves. Everywhere fugitives were being seized and borne back to slavery. Abolitionists were "stricken by a calamity which had befallen them," for the whole structure of justice and the law was now on the side of the slaveholders. The greatest burden fell on the free Negro population of the North. Indeed, Frederick Douglass was in as much danger as Big Jim who could neither read nor write. "Now such a law," writes Miss Buckmaster, "would split men's opinions. A law which permitted no evidence by the Negro and accepted a white man's word as final would startle a man into partisanship." Moved by the effects of the law, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The story of her celebrated fugitive—Eliza, who escaped across the ice floes with her baby—was truth, not fiction. But Miss Buckmaster carries Eliza's heroism to a dramatic conclusion. According to the author's story, Eliza returned to the plantation whence she had fled, gathered together her five remaining children, and started them off to freedom. With the bloodhounds again at her heels, she and her five children stood

Such episodes the author has told in brilliant narrative. Her portraits of the many figures, large and small, who participated in the fight for freedom which culminated in the Civil War are equally brilliant. People like Harriet Tubman, the Negro conductor, who made seventeen trips into the South and rescued slaves; Garrison, Douglass, Brown, Garnet, Stowe, Parker, Phillips, Lundy and Lovejoy all tower in her pages. Her description of the manner in which emancipation was received by the slaves and their friends, too long to quote here, is profoundly touching without being condescending. Nor are the social and economic implications in the events of the period forgotten. The clash between materialism and idealism is effectively pointed up. MAR 16 1941

Miss Buckmaster has accomplished a tremendous task successfully, supplementing in a large measure the work of such historians as Siebert. She has organized dramatic details into a sweeping picture of an unhappy period in our history. Her story is crowded with romantic episodes as well as with bloody incidents, and though much of it is collateral material, it nevertheless contributes to the mounting impact of the book. However, she yields to the temptation to bolster her arguments by over-documentation of incidents, so that at times the reader gets lost in details only important to historians. She is not always as successful in interpreting events as she is in narrating them. Her designation of the abolition movement as a "people's movement," for example, would exclude many prominent people. The movement, which in fact never had a real

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A Wagonload of Fugitives Arrives at Levi Coffin's.

From a Painting by C. T. Webber in the Cincinnati Art Museum. (From "Let My People Go.")

Chicago Defender Chicago, Illinois They Don't Go Home Again

Life on the farm—what images arise in our minds to clothe that concept!

Some years ago the New Agrarians, sickened of industrialism and its attendant evils, looked back on the old agricultural South and found it good. The farm they pronounced superior to the factory as the basis for a way of life, and counseled a revolt against industrialism. The South was following after false gods, they darkly thundered, in emulating the factory-mad Yankees.

We hear little from the New Agrarians these days. With even more determination than before the depression, the South is industrializing itself. And life on Southern farms is no longer depicted as idyllic. For the great majority of Southern farm people, life is unrelentingly difficult, and when the opportunity is presented them to escape from it to industrial employment and city life, they embrace the chance. Why?

The answer appears in the statistics setting forth the prices of farm products contrasted to the prices of the things farmers must buy; in the results of surveys which

reckon our soil losses through erosion and devotion to soil-mining crops; in the agricultural census returns disclosing the high proportion of tenants and share-croppers in the farming population; in the mounting figures on farm mortgages and farm debt; and finally in the numerous published studies of Southern social scientists who have undertaken to show farm life as it is now, not as they would like it to be, or as it was supposed to be back in ante-bellum days.

One of the most comprehensive and exhaustive studies of this nature is *They Live on the Land*, by Profs. Paul W. Terry and Verner M. Sims, of the University of Alabama, which is the first in a series of studies in education projected by the university.

They Live on the Land resembles *Middletown*, the Lynds' famous study of a typical Midwestern industrial community which by means of ranked and indisputable facts exploded so many pleasant myths about the "prosperity" of the Coolidge-Hoover epoch.

Setting out to prove no thesis about Southern farm life, Profs. Terry and Sims simply show it as it actually is lived in a typical open country community somewhere in Alabama. The community is not identified. For purposes of disguise, they call it "Upland Bend." It might well be any one

of a thousand such farming communities in Alabama—or for that matter in Mississippi, Georgia or South Carolina.

The study is based upon an almost unbelievably detailed survey carried out between 1934 and 1936 by means of subsidies from a number of federal agencies. A complete social and economic inventory was taken of the community and the 209 families who comprised it. Formal and informal interviews, questionnaires, standardized tests and ratings were the techniques utilized in gathering the voluminous data which furnished the materials for the authors' study.

The meticulous investigation extended even to counting the articles of wearing apparel possessed by typical persons in the community, to cataloguing the medicines and patent nostrums found in the homes—such as turpentine, castor oil and Life-Everlasting, a concoction of hickory bark, cherry bark, mullein leaves and rabbit tobacco. There are such touches which amuse the city sophisticate, but the main body of the account is a sober and systematic revelation that commands the reader's most serious attention.

MAR 23 1941

Upland Bend is 100 years old. What has a century of human living—of steady toil and mental effort—accomplished toward producing a democratic community with a reasonable measure of comfort and security for all as well as a balance of cultural compensations?

We learn that stability has been achieved on a marginal level which is absolutely irreducible for most, and low even for the most advantaged families. Eleven large land owners, constituting with their families less than 6 per cent of the community's total population, owned 55 per cent of the land, which nevertheless produced them an average family cash income of only \$1,691. Over half of this group had mortgaged their land, and their average "wealth" was \$2,350. Hardly "Bourbons" living in porticoed ease as this top land-owning group is sometimes portrayed!

Family cash income of the tenants and share-croppers who constituted 63 per cent of the population was \$290 and \$148 respectively. The small owners without tenants, who made up another 15 per cent of the people, earned but \$293, and so were no better off than the tenants. The total community income of Upland Bend was approximately \$75,000 for the year, or \$65 for each of the 1,150 residents.

"Life in Upland Bend," the authors say, "was built on an economy of scarcity."

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Meanwhile, the ambitious young person who comes to maturity in Upland Bend has no choice but to seek his fortune elsewhere. Of 19 college graduates which the community has produced, just one has returned to live there. *They Live on the Land* tells why the other 18 did not go home again.

From an analysis of the economic life of Upland Bend the authors pass to a description of the civic or political activity of the people. They found but a third of the eligible voters to be qualified, and these overwhelmingly came from the owning class. For all practical purposes the cumulative poll tax had effectively disfranchised the majority of the population who did not own land.

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"The right to vote," say the authors, "was the right of a privileged minority." They furthermore disclose that such votes as were cast were in many cases bought outright.

Other sections of the study deal with the health of the community, the homes of the families, religious life and expression, the school, the ways in which the people spent their time, what they thought, and the character of the local leadership which the community developed. These topics are ably handled, with a marshaling of significant evidence, and a total picture of frightful inadequacy emerges.

Nowhere does it appear that the people

countable. Only one-fifth of Upland Bend's population was Negro. The Negro farmers were principally share-croppers and their incomes were but a few dollars less than those of the whites in the same tenure status.

From an analysis of the economic life of Upland Bend the authors pass to a description of the civic or political activity of the people. They found but a third of the eligible voters to be qualified, and these overwhelmingly came from the owning class. For all practical purposes the cumulative poll tax had effectively disfranchised the majority of the population who did not own land.

MAR 23 1941

8-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Russia Prints New Book on Ira Aldridge, Actor

MAR 7 1941

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. —(ANP)— Although press-noticed as "a monograph about the celebrated Negro tragedian Ira Aldridge," the just published booklet, "Ira Aldridge," authored by S. Durilin, might well be sub-labelled "an expose of the studied suppression in other countries, especially England and America, of the name, art and mastery of one of the world's greatest histrionic masters, a brilliant interpreter of Shakespeare and a culture bearer of the Negro race."

In the land of Shakespeare's England, and in Aldridge's native America, this celebrated actor, who was an acknowledged master of Shakespearian roles (and not only "Othello"), neither the British Encyclopedia of American Biography could find ink or space to give to Aldridge, one reads on the very first page of this booklet.

Why this silence over this great tragedian than whom America has produced no greater interpreter of Shakespeare? The author replies: "The only impression created is that European and American theatrical authorities have made a 'deal' among themselves to remain silent about this celebrated tragedian because he was a member of the 'black race.'"

Hardly a single page of this 190-page booklet can be read without discovering what a great artist and humanist Aldridge was. Besides the wealth of information and human incidents also reveal what an excellent amount of research and careful labor the author devoted to the preparation of this booklet.

Debut in London

Thus, it is revealed that Aldridge began early in life not to specialize in Shakespeare's "Othello" roles, but to devote himself to the roles of "Romeo" and "Hamlet." It was only later in Great Britain after he had studied at the University of Glasgow, that Aldridge made his first real "Othello" debut in London. "Aldridge," says the author, "was not only the first to acquaint the Russian provincial display with Aldridge."

But Aldridge's genius was so great, his culture and humanism so high, that these calumnies proved to be a house of cards before the force of Aldridge's art and the love for him of the really advanced and progressive Russian people. Russia was looked upon by Aldridge as his "second Fatherland," and none of the successes which he had in other countries, including Germany and Austria, could replace or diminish his love for Russia, to which he always returned eagerly and annually, with the two exceptions of 1860 and 1863.

Toured Provinces

Unlike many another actor, Aldridge did not restrict himself to the glitter, luxury and comforts of the Russian metropolises; but carried his art deep into the provinces where the more plain people and where millions of Russia's "white slaves" lived and toiled.

Aldridge toured Russia for nine years at a time when "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had just been translated into Russian and when there was brewing a sharp struggle for freedom for the enslaved Russian serfs and, in America, for the enslaved Negro people. Therefore Aldridge met with a great welcome and sympathy among the advanced and progressive people in Russia, whose full sympathy and support was for freedom for the Negro slaves in America as well as for the Russian serfs.

Thought, Bad Example

However, most of the big land-lords and sref-owners looked with suspicion and no little dislike on Aldridge. He was, in their opinion, a bad example for their own living example of how supposedly "white slaves," in that he was a inferior and oppressed people came to become culture bearers and protagonists of progress and advancement. It was among such circles that calumnies reached Russia from America and England, claiming how dangerous physically it would be for Desdemona and other Russian actors and actresses to display with Aldridge.

There was one great tragedy in Aldridge's life, aside from the roles of tragedian which he played on the stage of the great theatres in Russia and elsewhere. He, like many other great present-day Negro artists, was compelled to leave his native land in order to obtain recognition of his masterly talent. His greatest success he found in distant Russia and concludes the author, Aldridge has always occupied one of the most honored places in the history of the Russian theatre.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.
African Culture
Traces Revealed
By WPA Writers
JAN 25 1941

ATLANTA—A first-hand study of customs, rituals and beliefs of the Georgia coastal Negro in and near Savannah is given in "Drums and Shadows," a book produced by the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project of the WPA just issued by the University of Georgia Press.

Faithful transcriptions of the speech of the 138 Negro subjects interviewed makes this WPA volume of interest to the average reader as well as to sociologists and anthropologists. It is revealed that many of the quaint practices and beliefs presented in the book have been handed down from

father to son generation after generation, among slaves and descendants of slaves in the tidewater lowlands and coast islands of the State. Conjure practices, religious survivals and tales of slaves from Africa are treated in "Drums and Shadows."

"Artists, poets and novelists are not the only ones who have felt the allure of this region with its old plantations, its ox-carts and its Negro peasantry," Dr. Guy B. Johnson of the University of North Carolina says in the introduction of the book.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

BOOK Reviews

Read More—Learn More

MAR 8 1941

DUNBAR CRITICALLY EXAMINED—by Victor Lawson (Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 Ninth street, N. W., Washington, D. C.—Price \$2.00.

This is the first effort of any American to undertake a literary interpretation and an appraisal of the career of this Negro poet. As a rule we mention only a few of his popular poems. Dunbar is generally spoken of as a successful lyric poet. MAR 8 1941

Mr. Lawson is the bright young man who has recently finished his education at Howard university under the influence of Professor Sterling A. Brown, one of the advanced thinkers of the race and probably its best critic of the production of Negroes in the English language. The book was produced as a thesis offered in completing the requirements for the degree of master of arts at Howard university, but it surpasses in many respects the average requirements for such academic honors. Many of our accredited universities are now conferring the degree of doctor of philosophy for dissertations which do not show as much research and original treatment as we find in the treatise of Mr. Lawson. While there will be many who will differ from him as to his attitudes and his conclusions, all must stamp his effort as commendable and encourage him to think further.

Mr. Lawson undertakes to examine briefly all works produced by Paul Laurence Dunbar and to appraise him as a writer in the light of all that he produced rather than

to emphasize merely the most creditable of his productions. Here Dunbar is presented not only as a lyricist but as a short story writer, novelist and playwright. Mr. Lawson's conclusion is that with the exception of his lyric poetry Dunbar was weak and failed to reach the higher level attained by the great writers in the English language. Such criticism may be considered either new or old. It is certainly not any unusual discovery to prove that most of what our greatest poets have written falls far below standard.

MAR 8 1941

The author is wrong also in holding it up as a defect that Dunbar was not a liberal—a writer with thoughts very much like those of the Socialist or Communist of our time. In other words, Dunbar is unsympathetically held responsible for not being able to think as people are now thinking almost a half century after the time that Dunbar lived. The public is indebted to Mr. Lawson for a searching examination of Dunbar's works, but few will agree that he has approached his problem according to all the principles by which the literary historian should be guided.

What is herein said by way of review, however, is not intended as an argument against the value of his work. In the 151 pages of the volume are given hundreds of verses which reflect the thought of Dunbar and enable the reader to construct in his imagination a complete picture of the times about which Dunbar wrote.

It is of much worth also that these excerpts are brought into comparison with the works of other authors by whom Dunbar was influenced. The book, however, is a treatment not only of the literary contribution of a Negro but a chapter in the history of English literature. Mr. Lawson deserves credit for thus broadening the picture to give a view of Dunbar not as a Negro poet but as a poet—By C. G. Woodson.

Claude McKay's Picture of Harlem

NOV 24 1940
HARLEM: NEGRO METROPO-
LIS. By Claude McKay. 262
pp. New York: E. P. Dutton &
Co., Inc. \$3. NOV 24 1940
By ROY OTTLEY

HARLEM, once inhabited by the white gentry in suburban aloofness, is today a bustling black metropolis and the Negro capital of the world. But its Negro critics often brand it as the capital of clowns, cults and cabarets. Nevertheless, thousands have converged on it from all parts of this country, the West Indies and from far-away Africa, undaunted by the prospect of overcrowded tenements, harsh northern climate and unemployment. During the stress and strife of community growth, many movements and indeed many flamboyant characters emerged, all seeking a way out of the impasse of Negro life. And it is of these, with deliberate emphasis on the personalities, that Claude McKay, Negro poet and novelist, writes in his latest book.

The popular movements of Harlem, Claude McKay implies, all spring from the simple instinctive urge of Negroes to support some form of community enterprise. This urge propelled the romantic Back-to-Africa movement of Marcus Garvey, self-styled Provisional President of the Empire of Africa, into an organization of two million followers and stirred Negroes to wild enthusiasm. Its mammoth meetings, colorful parades, gorgeous uniforms, and its slogan, "Africa for Africans," received amazing acclaim and caused Harlemites to pour their wartime earnings into the stupendous scheme of African redemption. "Under the shibboleth of peace and prancing," according to McKay, this spirit infuses the Father Divine Mission with its magic trinity of no sex, no race and no money. It was this spirit that inspired the local job campaign of the bizarre and be-turbaned Sufi Abdul Hamid, some-

times labor leader, sometimes occultist and full-time "Black Hitler." Until the strong-armed Dutch Schultz muscled in and ousted the foreign-born Negro czar, Caspar Holstein, it also injected that "tempo and élan" into Harlem's numbers game.

Claude McKay's portraits of these people, largely elaborations of his magazine articles, are frequently colorful. But when he attempts to evaluate the movements themselves and offer solutions, he gets into interpretive difficulties from which he is unable to extricate himself. Few of his readers will share the view, for example, that Father Divine's "gaudy metaphysical and animistic" movement is "manifestly a glorious Communist cult," though some certainly will be amused by the observation. Nor does McKay offer his audience a key to an understanding of the undersized cult leader by placing sole emphasis on his attraction to Negroes, when the wealth of certain of his white followers would prove no doubt the explanation of his success; for, as McKay himself says, Negroes consult the hosts of Harlem occultists in the hope of obtaining work and food. Unable to perform cash miracles, "God" would soon "cast bread on stagnant waters." He also fails to point out that although Divine has been active in New York since 1915, it was only after the depression that he attracted a large following.

NOV 24 1940
Most Negro leaders will not agree that the solution of the Negro's problem, as McKay contends, will come solely through a fierce racialism, expressed through support of Negro businesses, serving thus to crystallize a class of wealthy Negroes and through the organization and support of an independent (Negro) labor movement, in the hope of advancing the material interests of black workers. In the last century, when Booker T. Washington advanced his theory of thrift and Negro business as a

NOV 24 1940
solution, which McKay apparently admires, the country was on the threshold of capitalistic adventure, with individual enterprise characteristic of the day. Today such a plan is impractical for the achievement of large-scale Negro enterprises, for the obvious reason that the world (and indeed Harlem) has entered an era of corporate control.

NOV 24 1940
The black worker is faced with a like dilemma. Although, as McKay observes, "It is a scandalous fact that the slogan, 'Black and White Workers Unite,' is not always advantageous to the Negro when it is put into effect," an independent Negro labor movement would nevertheless be washed away in the raging sea of jurisdictional strife and competition and only serve, as the activities of the Sufi demonstrated, to increase racial antipathy. In offering the Pullman Porters Union of A. Philip Randolph as proof that such a plan would be practical, McKay has isolated the labor movement into one field of endeavor; furthermore, with the exception of red caps and porters, Negro workers do not dominate any other work and must therefore become members of the established unions of white men to secure gains.

A penitent from the radical movement, McKay now accents the color line rather than the class line. His peeve with Negro and white radicals, begun in his autobiography, "A Long Way From Home," and carried into "Harlem: Negro Metropolis," accounts for this new-found racialism. Disillusioned by the Communists, whose influence in Harlem he greatly exaggerates, he has become one of Harlem's most captious critics, allowing the deep undercurrents of Negro life and their broad social import to escape him. The subjects that McKay has chosen to discuss are ones that need serious treatment and analysis, but McKay did not approach his subject with the thoroughness that it deserves.

'Colored Woman In White World' Most Interesting

MAR 13 1941
Reviewed by R. J. Langston.

This autobiography is without doubt one of the most interesting that it has been our pleasure to read for many months. In the first instance the writer herself is one of the most interesting characters of the Negro race in America and the very facts dealing with such a life of varied experiences would naturally be interesting.

MAR 13 1941
The book is a vivid portrayal of the struggles of the aspiring Negro in America, delineating as it does all the discouragements, oppositions and agonisms that come his way to block his progress. While the volume itself is a description of an individual's struggle, it is even more than that; it is a true story of existing prejudices shown and practiced in this country. All that this distinguished writer

expresses, as the result of her personal experiences, is characteristic of what all aspiring Negroes have to suffer in this supposed land of freedom.

MAR 13 1941
The writer is not only entrancingly interesting but is surpassingly superb in her method of approach and her manner of expression. It is a gripping story from beginning to end, setting forth not only the obstacles and humiliation incident to Negro progress but it presents a gallant array of facts showing the courage and determination on the part of the Negro to rise in the face of every opposition. We unhesitatingly recommend this book to every aspiring Negro.

"A Colored Woman in a White World." Washington: Ransdell, Inc., pp. 437. \$2.50.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Ford Writes On Negro Literature For English Journal

MAR 4-5 1941

LANGSTON, — The March issue of COLLEGE ENGLISH, official publication of the National Council of Teachers of English, carries an interesting and significant article entitled "I Teach Negro Literature" written by Nick Aaron Ford, professor of English at Langston University. It is reported that this is the first article written by a Negro

on the subject of Negro literature that has been published by this magazine, which is subscribed to by 3,000 teachers of College English.

In the article Professor Ford discusses the organization and contents of the course in Negro Literature which he teaches at Langston University and makes a plea for the inclusion of Negro poets in all textbooks on American literature.

"Since we represent 10 percent of the population of America," he states, "don't you think a state-adopted text should give at least 10 per cent of its space to a presentation of the Negro's contributions?"

MAR 15 1941
In his conclusion, Professor Ford, who is author of two books and numerous magazine articles dealing with Negro life and culture, says "Already there are signs of a new day. Several important white universities of the South are now teaching courses in Negro history, race relations, and Negro literature. But we as Negro teachers must lead in the movement. We must keep the Negro child ever reminded of the glorious achievements of his people. He in turn will relay it, unconsciously, to his white playmate or working associate or employer. It will ooze out in private conversation, in public gatherings, and in public print. Soon the textbook makers of the nation will not hesitate to include in all American texts the full story of the Negro's contributions to his country's culture."

8-1941

New York ~~are~~
New York, N. Y.

Writers' Project Books Cited As Source Of Material For Negro History Week Observance

WASHINGTON, D. C.—At least twenty books prepared and issued by units of the Federal Writers' Project were referred to this week by Alfred Edgar Smith, staff adviser, Federal Work Projects Administration, as "a store of fresh, authentic material which will enrich as never before the Negro History Week celebrations sponsored throughout the country by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, February 9-16."

Large numbers of state and national research reports compiled by workers on rolls of the WPA were also cited by Mr. Smith as new aids for civic, religious, educational and fraternal groups planning closer study and wider dissemination of facts concerning the Negro in all walks of life.

"Some of the books produced by State Writers' Projects of the WPA are devoted entirely to the achievements of the race," the Staff Adviser said. "Others include the life and history of the Negro as an integral part of whole studies. Though the WPA research reports deal mainly with current economic and social trends in urban and rural Negro communities, these particular books and pamphlets make the backdrop for the momentous events which will be recorded in tomorrow's history of our nation."

"As the many unknown facts presented in the WPA publications become common knowledge, the respect for one group by other elements in our population will be heightened. This knowledge, understanding and respect lay the foundation for complete national unity. These factors build a stronger morale within our American Negro citizenry. Of all periods in our nation's history when this unity and this morale are sorely needed—now is the time!" Mr. Smith emphasized.

The "Cavalcade of the American Negro," produced by the Il-

linois Writers' Project, was singled out by the Staff Adviser because of its vivid account of the Negro as a soldier and sailor fighting side by side with other forces in every major encounter for the defense of the nation.

Three thousand colored troops were sent from every colony to bolster the hard pressed American forces during the Revolutionary War, the Illinois WPA book says. By August 24, 1778, General George Washington had over 700 of these troops under his personal command. The resistance put up by Negro troops covered the retreat of the American and French forces from Savannah on October 9, 1779.

"The War of 1812, begun to protect American seamen, many of whom were Negroes, found colored men again serving the colors. Commodore Perry commended the valor of black sailors at the Battle of Lake Erie; and their deeds there caused the New York legislature to authorize the formation of a Negro regiment to join the army at Sackett's Harbor. General Andrew Jackson praised the work of the five hundred Negro soldiers who fought under his command at the Battle of New Orleans," the "Cavalcade of the American Negro" continues.

With their own freedom as the prize, 180,000 Negro soldiers measured swords with their former masters in the Civil War. "These men rendered distinguished service at Miliken's Bend, July 6, 1863; Port Hudson, May 7, 1863; Fort Wagner, July 30, 1864; Petersburg, July 30, 1864; and at Nashville, December 16, 1864," the Illinois WPA book recounts.

In addition to telling the well known story of heroic Negro troops in the Spanish-American War the "Cavalcade" says that under the Selective Draft Act during the First World War, 342,277 Negro registrants were inducted into full military service. Of this number about 200,000 landed in France and fought for democracy. FEB 15 1941

Traditional Ideas Upset

Upsetting many other "traditional" ideas of the race, "The Negro in Virginia," issued by the Virginia Writer's Project of the WPA, presents the claim that the twenty Africans landed at Jamestown in the year 1619 and their successors for many years following were not slaves but indentured servants. After slavery was legally sanctioned the first recorded revolt against this system of involuntary servitude was initiated by slaves themselves in the year 1687.

"In a real sense the story of the Negro in Virginia is also the story of the American Negro, for more Negro families were nurtured in Virginia than in any other state," says Roscoe E. Lewis, of Hampton Institute, who is primarily responsible for the Virginia WPA Writers' production. "It has been our aim to tell impartially of the springs that watered these roots and of the draughts that withered them. It is, therefore, to the American Negro, and to those who seek to understand him that this volume is offered as the written record of a people who have helped build America—a people who are perhaps the most widely discussed and the least understood, though by no means the least important, element in America's racial pot-pourri."

Other WPA Writers' Project publications and books in the American Guide Series regarded by Federal WPA Staff Adviser Smith as "musts" in the Negro History Week celebrations are:

"The Negroes in Nebraska," a study, sponsored by the Omaha Urban League, tracing the life of the Negro in the State from 1538 to the present; a "Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock, Arkansas"; "Drums and Shadows," a first-hand study of strange folkways of Georgia coastal Negroes; "These Are Our Lives," published by the University of North Carolina Press at Chapel Hill; "Beaufort and the Sea Islands," a South Carolina WPA study made possible by the Beaufort Clover Club; "Delaware: A Guide to the First State"; "New York City: Guide to the World's Greatest Metropolis," a book which includes rich historical and current facts on the Negro; "New Orleans City Guide"; "North Carolina: Guide to the

Old North State"; "Philadelphia: Guide to the Nation's Birthplace"; "Savannah"; "Seeing St. Augustine" (Fla.); "Tennessee: Guide to the Volunteer State"; "Washington: City and Capital," a book whose essays on the Negro stirred Congressional debate in 1938; and "Georgia: A Guide To Its Towns and Countryside."

In New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Virginia WPA workers have compiled impressive histories and directories of the Negro churches and religious organizations in these localities. While these published records are largely statewide or local in scope, they include material on the total religious history of the American Negro.

Mr. Smith also recalled the three research publications made available by the New Jersey WPA and its Division of Adult Education. "The American Negro—A Selected Reading List"; "An Anthology of Negro Verse," and "Eighty-seven Pertinent Paragraphs on the American Negro" are the titles of these New Jersey pamphlets which have won national attention and wide distribution through the State and Federal offices.

500-Page Catalogue

Not to be overlooked in any study of the Negro in American history is the 500-page "Catalogue of Books in the Moorland Foundation." This catalogue was made possible by a WPA library project which employed twenty-three workers at the Founders Library at Howard University. In addition to listing the Moorland Collection composed of 5,000 publications by or about the Negro, this project enabled the workers to complete the task of uniting in a systematic manner the largest card record of literature on the Negro ever made available in one place. The publication dates for some of these books extend from the years 1659 and 1682 to late in the year 1940.

"The Urban Negro in the United States, 1925-36" is the most types and conditions of employment and earnings ever to be made among skilled and white-collar Negro workers," the Staff Adviser said as he turned his attention to current trends which would indicate the Negro's part in the future history of the nation. "In December, 1935, the WPA allotted \$467,042 for this

survey. Volumes I and II of this study were sponsored by the Department of the Interior under direction of Dr. Robert C. Weaver, former Adviser on Negro Affairs. The occupational shiftings among 355,000 Negro workers visited and interviewed in seventy-four cities are reported in this all-inclusive report. This study gives detailed information which had not been hitherto available for constructive social programs undertaken by numerous welfare, educational and other agencies seeking remedies for occupational maladjustments among white-collar and skilled Negro workers.

"The problems of Negro youths, and farm and non-farm families are discussed and compared in many National Research monographs produced by the Federal WPA Division of Social Research," Mr. Smith continued. "The same is true of the research monographs dealing with migrant families. In this connection, it is important to note that Nels Anderson, Director of our Labor Relations Section, gives a thorough discussion of the cause and effects of the mass migration of the Negro during the last World War in his book 'Men on the Move.' The situation of transients of the Race during the depression years is also treated in Mr. Anderson's current study."

"It is significant that the WPA has pursued peacetime research projects which are now turning up to be important factors in our national unity and morale," said the Staff Adviser. "In addition to breeding goodwill and understanding, these projects have made available facts and figures on community health, housing, education, employment, unemployment and other conditions which take first place in the consideration of all phases of our national defense program."

"It would appear that Negro History Week celebrations should take into account not only all of the recent government activities which have delved into the past history of the race, but should be seriously concerned with all current activities aimed to defend the fruits of the labor of all races and creeds within our nation."

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

FEB 6 1941

"Arrows of Gold" (Xavier University Press, \$1.) is a slim volume of verse, written by young Negro Catholics, and a Jose white father who has worked closely with them. It taps an unexplored source, and results in a fine addition to the small but rich Negro literature of America. These writers are socially conscious, without radical morbidness. Their feelings are affected by the world's troubles, but not their personal enjoyment of life and their spiritual confidence. The verses of Father Murphy, Lily Anne La Salle and Charles B. Rousseve are especially good.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WRIGHT WILL
COLLABORATE
ON NEW BOOK
FEB 15 1941

NEW YORK, Feb. 13—(ANP)—In collaboration with Edwin Rosskam, white, Richard Wright, 1940 Spingarn medalist, author of the best-seller, "Native Son," is now at work on a 30,000-word commentary on Negro life in America.

The non-fiction book is to contain numerous pictures which Mr. Rosskam will draw from the files of the FSA and other sources in the style followed by Mr. Rosskam in his books, "Home Town" and "As Long As the Grass Shall Grow."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHIDES
SCOTT,
DAVIS,
HUTCHINS

JAN 13 1941

By EDWARD LAWSON
(Manager Editor, Opportunity Magazine)

In a booklet entitled, "The Negro and National Defense," which the National Urban League published a few weeks ago, this warning was sounded:

"The Negro must guard against the possibility that, in the excitement of the nation-wide defense program, propagandists for various groups will attempt to stir up trouble between white and colored people."

Today that possibility is a reality.

In the press, on the radio, in countless letters and handbills—and even more often by word of mouth—we are hearing today the cry, "Let's solve our own problems here in the United States before we presume to interfere in the problems that beset the European nations."

Dr. Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, sounded the keynote of this tidal wave of propaganda with a radio address in which he gave evidence for the first time in his long and honorable career of a deep interest in the perplexities that beset the American Negro and implied that their immediate solution was of greater importance than the fight against Fascism.

Later came Dr. Emmett J. Scott, of the Republican National Committee, with a similar appeal. "Our house has not been set in order any more than it was in 1917," he wrote. "The usual and continuing disabilities of the suppressed elements are not being abated or ameliorated. . . ."

And the third to jump into this cozy bed was John P. Davis, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress, with the statement that, "until we get the full participation of the Negro masses in this struggle, there can be no successful defense of democracy and no winning of our country to the cause of peace. . . ."

These three statements have had, and undoubtedly will continue to have, a profound effect upon the thinking of America's Negro citizens.

No one wants to argue about them; we'll grant that each is absolutely true.

They are clearly worded, and although they don't say so directly they express by implication the hope that lies in the heart of every Negro citizen of the United States; that out of the struggle for Democracy abroad will come a fuller measure of democracy for minority groups here in America.

They are bravely spoken, But also they are dangerous. Dangerous because they paint for us an illusion that we know is that and nothing more, an illusion that all our problems could be solved in one brief period of readjustment.

Dangerous because, by oversimplifying a many-faceted situation, they lead to false hope.

Dangerous because in their logical development they would set one race against another, here in America, at a time when we need more than anything else complete unity of spirit and full cooperation.

Dangerous because, intentionally or not, they dovetail neatly into Hitler's technique of propaganda against the democracies, which is divide and move in.

If America were a Totalitarian state, and if the dictator were sympathetic and fair-minded in his attitude toward minority groups, everything the Negro now desires could be accomplished overnight, by one stroke of the dictator's pen, or one sweep of his sword.

Because America is a Democracy, the changes which we all desire for the betterment of our lives must come gradually, through what we call the Democratic process.

Those who would substitute some other process should first be required to demonstrate that their method would be more advantageous to us than the one we already have.

I am certain that neither Dr. Hutchins nor Dr. Scott nor John P. Davis would intentionally do anything to impede the progress of the Negro in America. I have implicit faith in their good intentions.

But I do feel that in their suggestion that we should try to solve every one of the many problems that confront us as a racial group here in the United States, before we extend any aid in the fight to hold in check the tidal wave of Fascism that is sweeping the world, they are consciously or unconsciously playing into Hitler's hand.

Hitler's best bet, in his effort to divert the steady stream of help from America that has held him at bay this long, is to encourage in this country the conflict of race against race and class against

class, in the hope that the resulting confusion will disrupt our national unity.

Could it be that Messrs. Hutchins, Scott, Davis, et al., are helping him to do this little job?

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Complete List of
FEB 8 1941
Wright's Writings

NEW YORK CITY—A complete list of the writings of Richard Wright, who was this week given the Spingarn Medal follows:

SUPERSTITION, a short story, published in Abbott's Monthly Magazine in 1931; STRENGTH and CHILD OF THE DEAD AND FORGOTTEN GODS, two poems, in Anvil, a bi-monthly magazine, in 1934; REST FOR THE WEARY, and A NOTE, two poems, in Left Front, 1934; EVERYWHERE WATERS RISE, a poem, in Left Front, 1934.

I HAVE SEEN BLACK HANDS, a poem, in the New Masses, 1934; Other pieces appearing in the New Masses have been: RED LEAVES, a poem, 1935; SPREAD YOUR SUNRISE, a poem, 1935; JOE LOUIS UNCOVERS DYNAMITE, an article, 1935; 2,000,000 BLACK VOICES, an article, 1936; HEARST HEADLINE BLUES, a poem, 1936; OLD HABIT AND NEW LOVE, a poem, 1936; BETWEEN LAUGHTER AND TEARS, book review, 1937; WE OF THE STREETS, a poem, 1937; SILT, short story, 1937; ADVENTURE AND LOVE IN LOYALIST SPAIN, book review, 1938; BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR, a long short story, 1938; JOE LOUIS AND HITLER, an article, 1938.

I AM A SLOGAN and AH FEELS IT IN MAH BONES, two poems, International Literature, 1935; TRANSCONTINENTAL, a poem, International Literature, 1936; BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME, a poem, The Old Partisan Review, 1935; A TALE OF FOLK COURAGE, book review, The Old Partisan and Anvil, 1936; OBSESSION and RISE and LIVE, two poems, Midland-Left, 1935; SHARECROPPER'S STORY, book review, New Republic, 1937.

BLUEPRINT FOR NEGRO WRITING, article, New Challenge, 1937; BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME, republished in Proletarian Literature in the United States, 1935; BIG BOY LEAVES HOME, a long short story, New Caravan, an anthology of American Literature, 1936; THE ETHICS OF LIVING JIM CROW, autobiographical sketch, American Stuff, an anthology of WPA writers, 1937.

FIRE AND CLOUD, long short story, Story Magazine, 1938; also in O. Henry short-story anthology,

1938. FEB 8 1941
UNCLE TOM'S CHILDREN, a volume of four long short stories including BIG BOY LEAVES HOME, DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE, LONG BLACK SONG, and FIRE AND CLOUD. The book was awarded a \$500 prize offered by Story Magazine for the best creative prose submitted by anyone connected with the Federal Writers project. Was accepted in 1938 for publication in England. Has been translated into Russian and has been re-issued by Harper and Brothers in 1941 in a larger and revised edition. Has sold over 100,000 copies.

BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR published and reprinted in O'Brien Best Short Stories of 1939, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston. Also in Best Short Stories since 1914, 1939, by the same publisher.

ALMOS' A MAN, short story, Harper's Bazaar, 1940; I BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS ME, Atlantic Monthly, 1940; HOW BIGGER WAS BORN in Saturday Review of Literature, 1940 and Harper Bros., 1940; FORERUNNER AMBASSADOR, book review, New Republic, 1940; INNER LANDSCAPE, book review, New Republic, 1940.

News
Birmingham, Ala.
Spingarn Gold Medal
Is Awarded To Author
Of Book-Of-Month
FEB 12 1941

Richard Wright, 32-year-old author of "Native Son" and "Uncle Tom's Children," is the twenty-sixth recipient of the Spingarn Gold Medal—awarded annually to the American Negro who made the highest achievement during the preceding year.

Wright's book, "Native Son," a book-of-the-month for March, 1940, sold more than 215,000 copies within the first week of publication and during a period of six weeks went beyond the 250,000 sales.

Wright, a native of Mississippi, wrote the book in Brooklyn after receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1939. The medal will be presented to him at the annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to be held in Houston in June.

The Spingarn medal award was instituted by the late Joel E. Spingarn, who was formerly president of the N. A. A. C. P., to "call the attention of the American people to the existence of distinguished merit and achievement among American Negroes, to serve as a reward for such achievement and as a stimulus to the ambition of colored youth."

8-1941

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

DEAN TAYLOR OF FISK IS AUTHOR OF TIMELY BOOK

'Negro In Tennessee' Gives Different Slant On Reconstruction Era In State

By Carter G. Woodson
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Dean A. Taylor has again written his name on the roll of historical scholars of the country in the production of his illuminating treatise on THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE, 1865-1880 (Associated Publishers, Inc., Washington, D. C., price \$3.00). Here we have increasing evidence of the ability of the Negro to tell his own story. Numerous writers of the white race have written on Reconstruction in Tennessee from the point of view of those who hated the Negro and finally eliminated him from politics. Some of these writers tried to be fair, but they did not see the Negro except as a misfit and a marplot. In order to complete the picture the Negro must be given an opportunity to testify for himself. No honest judge will give judgment until this is done. Through this scholar, therefore, the Negro again gets a hearing at the bar of opinion.

The average man with the usual American bias pays little attention to what the Negro says spontaneously in his own behalf; but in this book which the author has well documented in supporting his conclusions, historians of all races will find facts which will influence them to express a different opinion and possibly to change their attitude. This scholarly work cannot be ignored. All must take it into account.

Dr. Taylor's background is an assurance of his ability to perform this task. He is an educator of experience and for almost a decade has been serving as Dean of Fisk University. He is a product of the

public schools of Washington, D. C., the University of Michigan and Harvard where he obtained the degree of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. For a number of years he worked as an investigator of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and during that time wrote two other books of similar import, namely, THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING RECONSTRUCTION and THE NEGRO IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIRGINIA. These books were warmly received some years ago when they appeared, and historians found in them such exposure of the untruth in most works on reconstruction as to necessitate the rewriting of the history of that entire period.

Dr. Taylor has wisely chosen the states to be studied: THE NEGRO IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION presents the story of the state in which the Negro participated more freely than probably in any other during the rehabilitation of the rebellious commonwealth. Virginia and Tennessee belong to those states which were not so radically changed and did not offer the Negro as much opportunity for participation in politics as in the case of South Carolina. In studying these two extremes, therefore, Dr. Taylor has made it possible for the reader to grasp the mean between these two extremes of government in operation at that time.

It is fortunate too that Dr. Taylor is farther removed from the day of that struggle than most historians of the Reconstruction and can study the situation most dispassionately. We are beginning to realize that most of the historians of the Reconstruction were written by men who merely tried to whitewash their ancestors and to justify the illegal and cruel methods by which the Negro was eliminated from politics. Dr. Taylor has written with that restraint and care known only to the real scholar.

In the discussion of the Negro in Tennessee Dr. Taylor followed the wise course in treating the social as well as the economic forces at work in the state. He has endeavored to prove that the Reconstruction Period was not altogether political but it was economic and social. While there were men in conventions and in legislative halls discussing political measures and working out reforms, the forces outside of these which had worked in the home, in the schools, and in the churches as well as in the industries of the state finally determined what the political outcome

would be. This book, moreover, presents something new not in writing especially about the Negro but in projecting the Negro into the picture along with all other elements of the population. Other

Tennessee have merely referred to works on the Reconstruction in the Negro as a problem or an evil to be eradicated. In THE NEGRO IN TENNESSEE the whole theater of Reconstruction has been reproduced, and Tennessee has been made a part of a national drama.

One of the important contributions made in this study of Tennessee is the presentation of the present day achievements in that state. After reading this work the present aspects of Negro life become clarified by knowing the peculiar course which matters took in that state three generations ago. Valuable service has been rendered in interpreting the past in terms of the present and the present in terms of the past. While looking backward this historian has looked forward, and he enables the reader to see in both directions.

Tribune Philadelphia, Pa. "Native Son" In Braille So Blind Can Read It

"Native Son," the best-selling novel by Richard Wright, now on the stage has been translated in Braille, so that the blind may read it.

Copies of the book are now at the Free Public Library of Philadelphia, 19th and the Parkway (Department for the Blind), according to Miss Margaret Crawford, of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society, 1700 Walnut street, whose organization is especially interested in seeing that the blind know of available books. "Native Son," in Braille, is available for home circulation.

Winston-Salem N. C. Journal
March 11, 1941

Tar Heel Negro Author of New Book of Verse

A young North Carolina Negro poet who was reared in Winston-Salem, Mildred Martin Hill, is the author of a new book of verse, "A Traipsin' Heart," scheduled for publication April 15.

Now a schoolteacher in Durham, she has written poems for several years but the forthcoming volume is her first collection to be published. Some of her earliest

verses were brought to the attention of Clay Ferree, of The Journal and Sentinel staff, and a number of them, possessing originality and freshness of imagery, appeared in this newspaper about 1933.

The author attended Winston-Salem Teachers College and "worked her way" through school by acting as hat-check girl in a local hotel, and doing other jobs such as working as a waitress, drug store clerk, cashier, maid, cook and nurse. She was born in Madison, the youngest daughter in a family of nine.

In addition to her education received here, she attended Howard University, Washington, D. C., and Shaw University, Raleigh. She has contributed articles on the race problem and the teaching profession to educational periodicals.

"A Traipsin' Heart" is to be issued in a "patrons' edition," limited to 800 autographed copies. The edition will be specially designed and printed and, according to the publisher's announcement, will combine "elegant typography, artistic design, de luxe binding and fine printing."

Described by the publishers, Wendell Malliet and Company, New York, as "the creative expression of a poet of great promise," the book is said to be "freighted with the vitality, freshness, warmth and moods of the Sunny South."

Some of the poems included in the collection are: "To My Love," "A Negro's Lament," "God's Beautiful World," "Nocturne," "La Belle Mere," "To a Bird of Dawning," and "A Tryst I Have." They are said to "speak to nature, the human mind and heart, and the emotions of men on fundamental themes."

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

DEEP SOUTH APR 6 - 1941

THE USURPER. By Harry Harrison Kroll. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

STAN BUTTERWORTH, hard-boiled, cold-blooded, anti-social, dominates the book, from the first chapter, when, in a frenzy of anger, he furiously belabors his stalled Ford "as he would beat a mule to its knees." The years following 1929 which brought ruin to many of his aristocratic Deep South, neighbors, found Stan growing greater in possessions and power. But he could never achieve in the community, the position he secretly craved.

At the age of 50, wealthy, lonely, about to marry the winner of the Cottontown beauty contest, he says: "I only hope, Lally Belle, that what you have from now on will be better than you have ever wished for."

The book solves no problem, but it gives an accurate picture of life on a cotton plantation, and of those strange class distinctions common to rural Southern communities. —P. C. D.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH MCGILL.

"LANTERNS ON THE LEVEE" When I finished with William Alexander Percy's book, "Lanterns on the Levee," I felt like sitting down and writing a letter to this man whom I have never met or seen. The letter would have read:

"Dear Will—It just occurred to me on reading your book that I hadn't seen you in a good while. I am coming down for a visit and may stay a week or so."

There are all sorts of books. There are many good stories being written today. Some of them are a bit tedious, but still good stories. There are profound books, too; sober and filled with rich experience. There is all sorts of writing.

But not in many, many years have I read anything so beautifully written and so clearly honest and fine as "Lanterns on the Levee."

It is so honestly done, and so well told are its recollections, that one feels, on putting it down, that one has known Will Percy all one's life. One feels the urge to visit him. They tell me that, actually, a great many persons do just this and that his house is practically cluttered up with visitors. I've met one man who went to visit him for a week and stayed a year. This makes even "The Man Who Came to Dinner" seem like a pop-caller.

Will Percy has been a very good poet for many years. Now he has done his memoirs and it is quite the finest book of memoirs I have read.

I have been surprised to find that all the critics in the past have dealt kindly with it. I say surprising, because much that he has to say could be labeled reactionary. But they cannot say this because of his candor and his sometimes cruelly clear observations.

It is a book which the south must hope will be widely read. It explains the south, even though it is written of the Mississippi delta country, better than any of the sociological books written in the past ten years, excepting only Howard Odum's "Southern Regions," which is different.

HONEST PERSON Here is a man who has lived the life of the old Greek aristocrat. He was born of

gracious, cultured and courageous people. He was educated in the old manner. So well was he educated that, when he went to Sewanee Military Academy, he took, instead, the college entrance examinations and passed them. He had been educated by nun and priest and lawyer. They had taught him a few things which are in books, but they had taught him how to see flowers and clouds and rivers and mountains and how to listen to music.

He went to Harvard and his observations about Harvard and Boston and the people there are of interest. He had to be a lawyer and he was a good one, coming back to his native Greenville to join his father in practice.

He and his father and the decent people defeated the Ku Klux Klan in Greenville. His father started the defeat when the iniquitous "Colonel" came down from Atlanta, by standing up on the platform when the "Colonel" had done, and shaking a finger beneath the "Colonel's" face and saying:

"Who sent this scoundrel here to turn brother against brother in this peaceful town, and on what field of honor did he earn the title of colonel?"

With that introduction he won over the crowd and the "Colonel" fled the town. The next two years were hard ones, but in the end the Klan was undone, as it should have been undone in every town had there been courage enough.

"THE BOTTOM RAIL ON TOP" His father was elected to the United States senate

to fill out the term of a dead senator. When he ran for re-election he was defeated by James K. Vardaman, one of the south's many political demagogues. When it was done an old man said, "Well, the bottom rail's on top and it's gwiner stay thar."

"When father was defeated good men all over the south were heartbroken, but today Mississippi is like the rest of the south, and the south is like the rest of the nation: the election of demagogues horrifies nobody. The intelligent are cynically amused, the hoi-polloi are so accustomed to victory they no longer swagger. The voters choose their representatives in public life, not for their wisdom or courage, but for the promises they make. Vardaman was a

great forerunner of a breed of politicians not more able but less colorful than himself."

Percy went off to the war. He served well, and was decorated for bravery. You will like this chapter on the war. He came back to fight the Klan and to fight all else in his town which was not honest and decent.

He adopted three nephews and today he is faced with what a lot of other persons have come to grips with:

"Should I, therefore, teach deceit, dishonor, ruthlessness, bestial force to the children in order that they survive? Better that they perish. . . . The bottom rail was on top, not only in Mississippi but from Los Angeles to New York, from London to Moscow. In different quarters the effects were dissimilar, but the cause was always the same. . . . But there's time ahead, thousands of years; there is but one good life and men will practice it, though of my contemporaries only the stars will see it. . . . Love and compassion, beauty and innocence will return."

His notes on racial relations will anger some, but, on thought, they will not anger the thinking persons of either race.

His chapter, "For the Younger Generation," and two others, "Jackdaw in the Garden" and "Home," will be read more than once.

For our own sake, I hope a great many people will read this book. It is a book one doesn't forget

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Communism Turned Inside Out By Ex-Trusted Terror Worker

APR 6 - 1941
Story Shows Nero Was a
'Piker' Compared With
These Moderns.

OUT OF THE NIGHT. By Jan Valtin, Alliance Press, New York. 850 pp. \$3.50.

The years in Germany immediately following the Versailles Treaty were ones filled with social unrest, revolutionary activity and political turmoil. The whole country seethed with discontent, and was convulsed with internal strife between rival political ideologies.

It was at this period that the author, Jan Valtin, grew into young manhood and was swept inevitably into the whirlpool of political activity that resulted in his becoming a member of the German Communist Party.

He first served his apprenticeship as an "activist" distributing propaganda, agitating social discontent and building up the various water front unions through continental Europe.

As he became more proficient in his revolutionary work, he climbed the ladder of success, as it were, and found himself performing increasingly more responsible tasks for the party. He smuggled arms, whiskey and aliens across the border of every principal continental country engaged in murder, assassination, lustful living and most every other vice that respectable society condemns. His underground work took him throughout Europe, Asia, and America and as a representative of the Comintern, he hobnobbed, worked and lived with the lead-

ing radical leaders throughout the world.

Jan Valtin, alias Richard Krebs, and co-author with Isaac Don Levine, (by his admissions in a New York Times interview) has, for his purpose in writing this book, a two-fold attack upon the Communist Party. One is directed against the individuals who are members of the Communist Party; the other against the party, itself and its political policies.

To accomplish the latter, he recounts incidents from the private lives of individual radical leaders that makes the reader involuntarily shudder to think that such conduct actually exists. So much so, in fact, that the question repeatedly presents itself, "Can all this be true?" Some reviewers answer in the affirmative and still others in the negative; but, just as another reader, my comment is like that of the character in Hamlet when he learned of the situation in Denmark.

ARNOLD S. KAYE.

Kansas City, Cal.
Kansas City, Mo.

BOOK REVIEW

Synopsis and Criticism

"GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT," by Charles S. Johnson, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., 1941. \$2.25.

THE most distinguished feature of the rural Negro family is poverty," says the author of this rare human document. Although other sections of the American population are poor, the poverty of the rural, southern Negro is more acute. His is not merely a poverty of income but one of all living conditions. His education, recreation, religion and other forms of institutional living are the most extreme.

Then, to the poverty of the peasant Negro is added the inferior status of a bi-racial system. Even though some rural Negroes become prosperous they are not able to escape the restrictions of Negro life because of this economic advantage. The outlets in recreation, church, or community life are determined by the level of the mass population.

Economic status is a first influence on the development of the personality of Negro youth, whether his family status is owner, standing renter, cash renter, share tenant, cropper or wage hand. Negro youth must supplement the family income as a wage-earner at an early age. Such child labor not only limits the Negro youth's educational progress in an already unequal school system, but curtails his economic advancement as well.

Profound internal changes in the social composition of the Negro family have important effects upon the status of the adolescent Negro. Irregularly organized or broken family life caused by death, desertion, divorce or high mobility offers the greatest threat to emotional security of the young Negro. In his overt behavior at all social levels there is a direct relationship to the internal fears, anxieties and feelings of inadequacy and frustration fostered in a unstable home life.

As for the role of the church in the life of the Negro rural youth it is required less by him than his parents for whom it offered emotional release. Present-day youth, being more mobile and less docile, expects

the church to keep pace with his needs and the improved levels in other forms of institutional life.

Poor and chance facilities for wholesome leisure time are the roots of much of the discontent and anti-social behavior of rural youth.

Their occupational outlook offers little inspiration or opportunity except hope of escape from the drudgery and monotony from the manual labor of the cotton field. Cotton, more than any other major crop, has resisted the general trend toward mechanization in agriculture.

In the eight counties which were studied intensely the author has polled the attitudes of youth toward sex and marriage and finds the rural Negro youth tends toward strict sex standards. Within the race, the southern rural Negro adolescent gets little emotional security or wholesome inspiration from identification with his racial group. In their relations with whites all classes and temperaments of youth in all areas are conscious of being different and apart from the rest of the community; they felt they are treated unfairly and are economically suppressed.

The volume is amply documented with case histories, interviews, tests, and varied techniques and methods employed to secure the response of Negro youth to the low economic conditions of the plantation south. It is the latest study of a series of investigations by the American Youth Commission to clarify the status of Negro young people and to define the dimensions and implications of their problems.

—THOMAS A. WEBSTER

8-1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

SIAC Silver Jubilee Bulletin By B. T. Harvey Fills Ancient Need

DEC 11 1940

DEC 11 1940

By "MELANCHOLY" JONES

IT HAS BEEN an indictment by this writer for a long time that Negro baseball will never reach real significance in the minds of both white and colored followers until complete and accurate records of its history are chronicled. For a long time, it appeared Negro football, collectively, was falling in the same rut. It seemed the only records existing were those of the individual schools, usually kept in their athletic offices but few so complete and readily available as those handled by Frank Forbes out at Morehouse.

Rapid development of the Negro press help the situation—just as it has been a Godsend to Negro professional baseball. But every layman—not just trained experts—needs and should have ready information on the achievements of Negro athletes.

The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has long realized this need. In many of its annual sessions, its moguls talked of such an idea. But it remained for the veteran B. T. Harvey to harness the thoughts of those "mental sponsors," to skeletonize the proposed "SIAC Bible" and to finally bring it to a glorious realization.

As editor of the SIAC Silver Jubilee Souvenir Bulletin, landmarking 25 years of progress from 1913 to 1938, Mr. Harvey, in spite of tremendous handicaps from a standpoint of finance and from that of physical cooperation from several institutions forwarding material late or submitting incomplete information, puts over an amazingly good job.

The bulletin wears a glad, durable, silver cover—symbolic of the Silver Jubilee of the SIAC. The contents of the publication are as follows:

- (1) Foreword, greetings and historical data on the SIAC;
- (2) Campus scenes at the various SIAC institutions;
- (3) Historical resumes of Athletics

at all SIAC institutions;

(4) Pictures of outstanding athletes at the various SIAC institutions;

(5) Record of the various SIAC champions in all sports (1913-1939); and (6) The complete constitution of the SIAC.

Besides, many of the loveliest and most glamorous campus football queens and girl athletes are carried, adding special appeal for feminine readers.

Like "Football Forecast," the S. I. A. C. Souvenir Bulletin fills an urgent need and, being distributed widely in the next few days at convenient points all over the SIAC circuit, should "sell" like hot cakes.

Many informational publications are cluttered up with advertisements, some of which are not especially attractive to the eye. The SIAC bulletin is not. It fulfills its avowed purpose to a straight letter "T". It gives out information in a clean, concise and picturesque manner and every page of it is ascribed to attainment of that ideal. Its sponsors used excellent judgment in providing funds that were substantial enough to make such an undertaking possible.

Already famous as an erstwhile "big time" coach of all sports, a football and basketball referee, a baseball umpire; a track referee, starter, timer, and judge; a Chemistry professor, sporting goods salesman, civic leader, frat man, fraternal leader, bridge enthusiast, expert in physical education, basketball promoter, good mixer, tennis pioneer, scout leader, and family man, the SIAC souvenir bulletin, plays another outstanding talent. He is one of the most energetic, aggressive, and versatile men I ever knew.

The SIAC souvenir bulletin has an eternal value. Those who fail to procure a copy will fail to have in their possession what might well be termed a "Bible of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference." Every sports lover—if not every layman—should have a desk office, or home library copy.

Bystander

Des Moines, Iowa

BOOK REVIEW
JAN 16 1941

(By Louise Glass)

NEGRO BUILDERS AND HEROES

By Benjamin Brawley

(The University of North Carolina Press)

Considering the way books come tumbling off the press today, this book is not new—having come out in August, 1937. But it isn't the kind of book that you must hurry up and read while it is "still hot." It is a book that you like to sit down and absorb—taking plenty of time.

"Negro Builders and Heroes" deals with the history of Negro America very much as H. G. Wells' "Outline of History" deals with the history of the world—mostly an outline. The text covers just about three hundred pages but it is amazing that so much information could be packed into that limited space.

Briefly the author sketches Africa to use his own words — "before the European came with his greed and his firewater." Then follows a vivid glimpse of slave trade and the introduction of slavery in the United States.

For many years I have been on the lookout for a reasonable answer to one particular question: How could little bands of slave traders, year after year, century after century, invade a country whose population was too great to be enumerated, and snatch twelve million of its inhabitants to be sold into slavery?

Dr. Brawley informs us that African chieftains conspired with those traders. Sometimes he would betray an enemy tribe. Fifth column, so to speak!

The life and times of many outstanding men and women are dis-

cussed from Crispus Attucks to Joe Louis; from Phillis Wheatley to Mary McLeod Bethune.

Besides realizing the value of this book as a source of information, you will be impressed with the aura of sincerity which seems to rise as you turn the pages.

New Masses

New York, N. Y.

Anti-Semitism

WHERE HOPE LIES, by Leo Schwartz, Farrar & Rinehart, New York. \$1.50.

IN THIS study of Anti-Semitism, Mr. Schwartz dispels numerous myths about "instinctive anti-Semitism," about the spurious theory that the Jews are united internationally against the non-Jewish world, and the fallacy that a policy of silence will appease the enemies of the Jew. Mr. Schwartz exposes anti-Semitic activity as a political weapon, giving several new instances, including a story of how Mussolini reversed Italian policy under political pressure. The section which reveals the true condition of the Jews in Poland before the present war is especially worth while, although the author does not tell how pogroms and economic discrimination were brought to an end when the Soviet Union liberated part of Polish territory in October 1939.

Mr. Schwartz appraises anti-Semitism as an instrument in the struggle for power by fascist groups in all countries, including our own. But he fails to carry his theory to its logical conclusion, overlooking the fact that the economic forces in America, quite as much as in Germany or Italy, are prepared to employ anti-Jewish prejudice to serve their ends. His is an approach which regards General Van Horn Moseley and Father Coughlin as the only enemies of the American Jew.

The result is that although he correctly asks for unity in defense of democracy and its extension to the defense of all minority groups, including Negroes, he is led toward support of a war waged by reactionaries in Britain and the United States against reactionaries in Germany as the only solution. To bolster this argument, he offers the false notion that Britain is in process of democratization under Churchill. As a matter of cold fact, the British government is centralized within a group of industrial and financial magnates, several of whom have had direct connections with Hitler

and most of whom are in essence fascist sympathizers—including Lord Halifax. If Mr. Schwartz saw the rotten economic core at the center of the anti-Semitic poisoned apple, he would realize that war, instead of making anti-Semitism unpatriotic, can only lead to further oppression of minority groups, including, of course, the Jews. Mr. Schwartz's fierce cry for more and better democracy must be applauded, but as he removes several beams from other people's eyes, he must remove at least one from his own.

JAMES MORISON.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

THE BOOKSHELF

JAN 26 1941

By V. ELIZABETH BROWN
(Assistant Librarian, Auburn
Branch Library)

IN ORDER that patrons may keep well informed as to what's new in Negro literature, the Auburn Branch Library is constantly adding to its shelves new books by and about Negroes. Three of the recent ones are listed below.

IN A MINOR KEY, by Ira DeA. Reid.

CHILDREN OF BONDAGE: The Personality Development of Negro Youth in the Urban South, by Allison Davis and John Dollard.

THE NEGRO IN VIRGINIA, sponsored by The Writers' Project of Virginia is the first state history of the Negro that has even been published. Much of the culture of the American Negro is derived from sources in Virginia where the first African natives were brought. The facts in this book have been carefully verified and the many illustrations present a graphic picture of Negro Life over a period of years.

Other current library favorites are as follows:

OLIVER WISWELL, by Kenneth Roberts, you remember he wrote "North West Passage." His ancestors participated in many of the exciting events he writes of in his novels.

THE BELOVED RETURNS, a picture of Negro life over a period of sparkling wit, irony and satire. The novel is centered around Charlotte Kestner's return to Weimar after many years to see again the Goethe who immortalized her as Lotte in his SORROWS OF WERTHER.

FAME IS THE SPUR is by Howard Spring who is also the author of MY SON, MY SON. This is the story of Hamer Shawcross, an illegitimate child in a Manchester slum, who by shrewd intelligence and ambition rose from a grocer boy to politician, to parliament and finally to peerage.

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER, by Carson McCullers, is a convincing and fascinating story about ordinary people in a southern town.

ON THE LONG TIDE, tells of the first American settlements in Texas, preceding the period of Laura Krey's AND TELL OF TIME. The story is spiked with

authentic descriptions of historical characters as well as glamor and romance.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Negro Story 'Rings True'

BLOOD ON THE FORGE, By William Attaway. Doubleday Doran. \$2.00.

Reviewed By
HELEN CAIN
Librarian, Poplar Bluff, Missouri

The three Moss brothers were average colored croppers, happy and unhappy as most, when Big Mat's unruly temper made it necessary for them to leave the lynching country in a hurry—in such a hurry that they couldn't even take along Hattie, Big Mat's wife. They exchanged the starving Kentucky land for the Pennsylvania steel mills. But they didn't transplant well. They had forsaken a familiar way of life, and in the melee of Italian, Slav and Irish workers, in the consuming heat, the pitted faces, the thirst soul deep, they were distinctly and forever aliens. As old Zanski put it: "Feller from long way off die like plant put on a rock. Plant grow if it get ground like place it come from."

It should have been a warning, but it wasn't. The Moss brothers stayed on, doggedly, and each is lost in his own tragic way:

Chinatown, used to lazy hours in the sun back home, proud of his only achievement—a front gold tooth, and a lover of red soda pop, is blinded to the beauty of both in a big mill explosion, that mill that was so greedy for lives.

Big Mat, once a Bible lover, forgets the Word, forgets Hattie back home and becomes obsessed with his love for a scheming Mexican girl, Anna. When a strike threatens, Big Mat, proud of the strength that earned him his nickname, turns into a raging brute as he is goaded into power by the strike breakers. His defiant death is brutal and one of the most dramatic passages of the book.

Melody, the sensitive guitar strummer, lost in his pity for Chinatown and his jealousy of Big Mat over Anna, no longer can translate his thoughts into blues, and when his playin' hand is injured it's as if he wanted it to be that way.

Attaway, the young negro writer, has not written a pleasant story. He has written, instead, a story of defeat that rings true—a story of any man's luck in a hostile environment. It is, as you may guess, not a book for the squeamish.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Traces Of African Culture Revealed In "Drums And Shadows" Just Issued By WPA

ATLANTA, Ga. — A first-hand study of customs, rituals and beliefs of the Georgia coastal Negro in and near Savannah is given in "Drums and Shadows", a book produced by the Savannah Unit of the Georgia Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration just issued by the University of Georgia Press.

Faithful transcriptions of the speech of the 138 Negro subjects interviewed makes this WPA volume of interest to the average reader as well as to sociologists and anthropologists. It is revealed that many of the quaint practice and beliefs presented in the book have been handed down from father to son, generation after generation, among slaves and descendants of slaves in the tidewater lowlands and coast islands of the State. Conjure practices, religious survivals and tales of slaves from Africa are treated in "Drums and Shadows."

"Artists, poets and novelists are not the only ones who have felt the allure of this region with its old plantations, its ox-car's and its Negro peasantry." Dr. Guy F. Johnson of the University of North Carolina says in the introduction of the book. "The works of C. C. Jones, Jr., John Bennett, Marcel Whaley, Ambrose Gonzales, Reed Smith, Elsie C. Parsons, Bal-lanta-Taylor, T. J. Woofter, Jr., Guion G. Johnson, Guy B. Johnson, Robert Gordon, Lorenzo D. Turner and others testify to the continuing interest of scholars in the history, folklore, folk music and dialect of the Negro people of this region. These Negroes, more perhaps than any others in the United States, have lived in a physical and cultural isolation which is conducive to the survival of many old customs and thoughtways, both African and European. The present work represents an effort to go a bit deeper than any other work has done into the aspects of the folk culture of these people in the coastal area."

While the age-old debate on the nature and importance of African heritage in American culture is not settled in "Drums and Shadows,"

Dr. Johnson points out that "the question is interesting and worthy of study. Such study may not only satisfy a wholesome curiosity but may throw light on the scientific problem of the processes which go on when two different cultures come into contact."

Striking Illustration

Common beliefs and customs of some twenty Georgia coast and coastal island communities are treated in the WPA book. Among these is the Yamacraw community made famous by the late James Weldon Johnson in his celebrated poem entitled "Go Down Death". There, "ghosts are everyday experiences. Root doctors are in constant demand." It is pointed out, however, that the old Yamacraw of wooden shanties is gone. Today, modern concrete dwellings built under the low-rent program of the United States Housing Authority have eliminated the "picturesque" but over-crowded, depressing and unhealthy living conditions among Negro residents of Yamacraw.

Thirty-one photographs by Mueller and Malcolm Bell, Jr., of Savannah, make up a series of striking illustrations in the Georgia Writers' production. The oldest person interviewed, 110-year-old Tony Delegal, is pictured with work-gnarled hands. A fisherman of Pin Point, a drum-maker of Savannah and an ox-cart at Sapelo are among other subjects of illustration.

"Drums and Shadows" is the result of extensive research undertaken by WPA workers employed on the Georgia Writers' Project.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE FARMER'S WORLD

A book of 1,215 pages coming to rest on a desk in a metropolitan newspaper office and entitled "Farmers in a Changing World" is a reminder, if such were needed, that food and clothing do not grow in stores or in cans, but mainly originate in the ground. Officially, this volume is the Yearbook of Agriculture, published by the Department over which Henry A. Wallace until recently presided. It is one of a series which has dealt with "Better Plants and Animals," "Soils and Men" and "Food and Life." It "records explorations along the social and economic frontiers of agriculture." Farmers who do not belong to the "third to a half of the farm families in the United States" who are on a subsistence or even a migratory basis will be easy enough in their minds, perhaps, to read it with interest. It will do city people good.

Mr. Gove Hambridge, whose title of "Principal Research Writer" would have seemed strange a few years ago, detects five important viewpoints in this rural library: (1) "That we face profound changes and that we must do something to adjust ourselves to them"; (2) "that the agricultural problem is only part of a more inclusive national economic problem"; (3) that we must give more attention to the subsistence or non-commercial farmer; (4) that we ought to apply science to people as well as to the plants and animals they raise; (5) that we ought to make democracy "something worth defending" on the land as well as elsewhere.

One ticks the chapters off. There are fifty-four of them. The underlying worry is how to combine plenty with profit, how to get all the food that is needed to all who need it, how to make farming pay a living wage, what to do with people who are no longer needed on farms. The cheerful symptom is that we do worry. The plow-under school clashes with the efficiency school, sometimes in the same bureau, sometimes, perhaps, under the same hat, but the democratic worry points in the long run toward a democratic solution.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
September 3, 1941

As It Appears to The Cavalier

FOR the sake of accuracy, it cannot be too often pointed out that our American aristocracy is not something which we imported or brought over with us, but an honest piece of goods made here in America out of our own raw material.

I have just read a book, Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, written by Lewis Morton and published by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. The editor, Hunter D. Farish, in his preface says: "This book is the second volume of the Williamsburg Restoration historical studies, published under the auspices of the department of research and record of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc."

The author, seeming to feel that the Carter family needed something more than an American authenticity of aristocracy, cast about to discover the English genesis of the family, and has to confess in the first paragraph: "Neither the precise locality from which the emigrant came, nor the family from which he was descended is definitely known."

The book is a precious contribution to the lore of Colonial Virginia which this picture of an imposing family gives, with its account of an aristocracy in the making, and the management of and operation of a huge plantation, or many huge plantations.

That John, the first of the family was a man of some pith is attested by the fact that he acquired a considerable estate and represented Lancaster County in the House of Burgesses. But it was his second son, Robert who was the real builder of the family fame and fortune. He it was they call "King" Carter, a title bestowed on him by some waggish person in derision of his regal airs and arrogance.

He accumulated 333,000 acres of land. Brief gleanings from the book disclose the nature of this dominant and aggressive man: In 1722, Carter was again made the representative of the Fairfax interests in Virginia. By this time he became bolder and more confident, and he now proceeded to carry on a rushing land-office business. His method was simple: As agent for the proprietor he granted lands, not to himself, but to his children and grandchildren.

He was naturally acquisitive and had

a thrifty gift. At times "King" Carter also dealt in slaves, acting as a middleman between traders and planters, and making a neat profit for himself thereby" (Page 19).

Carter was a God-fearing man, so his biographer finds. He built Christ Church in Lancaster, which still stands in the fork of the roads which lead to Irvington and Weems. But even toward religion he took a proprietary pose: "That Carter was a God-fearing man is evidenced by the fact that he erected a church for his parish, reserving one quarter of the space for his own family. His name was written in a large bold hand in the vestry lists, preceding that of the minister. Tradition relates that on the Sabbath, no member of the congregation dared to enter Christ Church until Carter's carriage, drawn by six lively horses, drew up before its entrance. "King" Carter would then alight and enter the place of worship, the others following respectfully. After he had taken his seat the service would start" (Page 20). Whether the Lord was in His holy temple before or after the "King" entered, tradition sayeth not.

The book deals briefly with the "King" and his grandson, Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, called the councillor. Life on his plantations is the business of the book and it gives an engrossing picture of plantation life and the manner of our Colonial aristocracy in the prime of its power.

It is the picture of a life of ease and luxury and that liberty which slavery alone can bestow. The white lords did not scruple to be suckled at black breasts: "As was frequently the case in the South, then (the Negro women) sometimes nursed Mrs. Carter's children with their own milk. 'My wife wants a wet nurse for her young child,' wrote the councillor to one of his overseers in 1778, '& and she understands that Negro Suckey at Billingsgate Quarter has a good breast of milk. I will send a Negro in her stead, or make you a reasonable allowance for her services as a nurse.'" (Page 140).

The Negro's rations was a miracle of meagerness. (Page 108) One peck of corn and a pound of salt was the customary weekly ration allotted to each Negro; sometimes a pound of meat was added. Clothing for the Negroes was

plain and cheap but adequate. During the summer months they wore little more than enough to cover their nakedness. As the cold weather set in they were given shoes and warmer clothing."

People so fed and clothed tilled the fields of Councillor Carter on his plantations so numerous that he ran out of usual names and had recourse to the Signs of the Zodiac, and we read of plantations named Taurus and Cancer and Gemini and Ares and so on.

I am pained to find that the councillor fell away from the pious persuasions of the "King," his grandfather. "In a letter to one Mr. Everard in June 1778, he admitted that he had formerly considered religion to be, 'not of divine institution, but merely a political contrivance, and later to Thomas Jefferson that "he conceived religion to be of human origin, supported by civil authorities for their own advantage." Alas! what would that patron of piety, the "King" have thought of such sentiments?

THOMAS LOMAX HUNTER.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Richard Wright Working On New Documentary Book

WASHINGTON (ANP)—More fame will come to Richard Wright, author of the widely discussed "Native Son," when the new work he is collaborating on with Ed Rosskam of the Department of Agriculture, is published. Fashioned after the famous book of photographs by Margaret Bourke-White, this new opus, "12,000,000 Black Voices," is a composition of photographs taken by department officials and will prove very effective in presenting the Negro's case to the world in general.

Roskamp, who is now an expert for the Farm Security administration in the display and exhibit department, is a young white man who has been at various times rotogravure editor for the Philadelphia Ledger and more recently employed in New York City.

Mr. Wright, who is doing the text, needs no introduction as his famous book won world-wide recognition.

The Fiction Mills

OCT 12 1941

By John T. Appleby

THE MOSS BOYS, of "Blood on the Forge"—Big Mat, Melody and Chinatown—were share-cropping in the Kentucky Hills. The landlord had claimed their share of the crop for the next two years in payment for the mule Big Mat had killed when the animal had dragged their mother's battered body in from the fields. They had nothing to eat and no prospect of making a crop without a mule. Melody picked his guitar and Chinatown laughed, but Big Mat brooded.

When the jacklegs came to the hills, trying to get the Negroes to go North to work, the landlord promised Big Mat another mule, but when he went to get it the riding boss laughed at him. Big Mat went hog wild and knocked the white man off his horse. Then he had to leave the hills, before the lynching party found him.

So the Moss boys went North in a boxcar, and Big Mat left Hattie behind. In the steel mills they found work, in the fiery heat, the deafening noise, and the ever-present danger. Melody and Chinatown spent their money on corn and Mexican girls, but Big Mat studied the Bible and saved his money. Maybe the curse would be lifted from him and Hattie wouldn't lose the child, as she had the six before it.

But Hattie did lose the child, so Big Mat went out with his brothers. He met Anna, a Mexican girl, and he bought her a party dress and shoes with rhinestone heels and laid off work for a week. Melody was in love with Anna, too, but there was nothing he could do about it but pick his guitar and sing the blues.

Trouble began to brew at the mill, the workers started joining the union, and the owners brought in sealed boxcars full of more Negroes from the South. In an accident at the mill, fourteen men were killed and Chinatown, whose face was set in a perpetual smile, lost his eyes. Melody and Chinatown moved in with Big Mat and Anna, and they took turns in caring for the blind man.

Chinatown couldn't seem to pull himself together again after he realized what had happened to him. Melody finally decided that a woman might do him good, so he led his blind brother to a house on the hill where he made arrangements with one of the girls. While he was there he learned that Anna had been coming up occasionally in the evenings, while Big Mat was at work.

Anna wouldn't have anything to do with Big Mat, and his world turned to bewilderment. When the troopers offered to deputize him for the trouble that was ahead, Big Mat, without knowing what he was doing, agreed. When the trouble broke, the violence and the bloodshed aroused the deep animal in him. When he was little, the white trash had sung mocking songs at him. He had had to step off the sidewalk to let the white folks pass; he had to knuckle down before the landlord and the riding boss; even Anna mocked him.

In the brutal scene which closes this powerful novel, Big Mat thought that now he was the riding boss and could take his vengeance for all that he had suffered. "There was no riding boss over him now. He turned wildly and gazed at the mill. A great exhilaration almost swept him into the air. The townsfolk were down. He was exalted, a bitterness toward all things white hit him like a hot iron. Then he knew. There was a riding boss—Big Mat. Big Mat Moss from the red hills was the riding boss. For the first time in his life he laughed aloud."

"Blood on the Forge" is less ambitious in its scope than is "Native Son," with which it will inevitably

be compared. Many of the things which are said at great length in Mr. Wright's novel are merely implied in Mr. Attaway's. Mr. Attaway tells the tragic story of the life and death of Big Mat Moss and leaves his readers to draw their own conclusions. It is sufficiently pointed as it is, without the long pleadings of a lawyer to bring home to society its guilt in forming Big Mat in such a mould of violence, rebellion and bewildered tragedy.

Mr. Attaway's style is simple, direct, and of piercing beauty. It is a clean-cut prose, stripped to the very bone, and admirably suited to his subject. His portrayal of the character of Big Mat, inarticulate, bewildered, seeking desperately for a moment of self-realization, is a piece of consummate artistry. William Attaway is a better story-teller and less of a conscious philosopher than is Richard Wright, and for that reason I think he gives promise of becoming an even better artist than is Mr. Wright. That, to my mind, is praise indeed.

Daily World

Atlanta, Georgia

Illinois WPA Compiles Lists Of Information

SEP 27 1941

Dr. Jemison Hails

Contribution

As "Invaluable"

CHICAGO, Ill. (SNS)—The first national directory of Negro Baptist Church organizations ever to be compiled in the United States is to be published shortly by the Illinois Historical Records Survey, a unit of the Division of Community Service Programs, Illinois State Work Projects Administration.

Charles P. Casey, WPA Administrator for Illinois, made this announcement early this week. He said the directory will list names and locations of over 15,000 churches, all State conventions and associations. It will be issued in three volumes arranged alphabetically by States and church bodies within each state.

GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CHURCH

This publication is regarded as of great importance to the Negro Baptist Church. In his endorsement of the work undertaken by the Illinois WPA, Dr. D. V. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, hailed the Directory as an "invaluable contribution" to materials used by clergymen. In addition, the Directory undoubtedly will be used to an advantage by church historians, archivists and students.

Work on this extensive compilation was begun in the Spring of 1940 with the cooperation of presidents and secretaries of all State conventions, moderators and secre-

Conventions in the old Dominion State, and which tells a brief story of every Negro Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

The forthcoming Illinois WPA Directory of Negro Baptist Organizations and other State archives and inventories of religious bodies were authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who on September 1, 1939, set up the Historical Records Survey to perform work leading to the preparing and duplicating inventories of Federal, State, county, municipal, and other public archives preparing and duplicating inventories, guide and calendars of manuscript collections including church archives.

taries of all associations, and thousands of ministers. According to Mr. Casey, the directory could not have been produced without the active aid and interest of these church officials. The directory records the status and affiliations of each church body as given to the Historical Records Survey by responsible church officers and pastors. Structural basis for the canvass was modeled upon the U. S. Census of Religious Bodies.

A current file of newly formed associations, congregations, and ministerial changes will be kept by the Illinois WPA Historical Survey office. Supplements to the Directory will be issued by this office as changes occur. Thomas R. Hall, State Director of the Survey, says that periodic information sent in by church officials and ministers will be necessary to keep revisions in the supplements up to date and asks cooperation in this work.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

While Illinois WPA Directory of Negro Baptist Church organizations is the first national publication of its kind to be produced, others WPA officials have issued Historical Records Survey publications which included or were devoted exclusively to the Negro church.

As early as February, 1939, the District of Columbia WPA brought out a Church Archives Inventory entitled "Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations, Washington, D. C." Many notable facts

on the individual histories of over 250 Negro Baptist churches in the State of New Jersey are recorded in the 289-page "Inventory of Church Archives of New Jersey; Baptist Bodies," issued by the New Jersey State WPA during April, 1939. This was followed by a history of the rise of the Negro Baptist church to an institution now embracing 17,743 ministers; 22,081 churches; 3,750,000 communicants, and property valued at \$103,465,800, as recounted in the Virginia WPA Church Inventory "Negro Baptist Churches in Richmond." April, 1940, is the date of publication for this Historical Survey publication, concerned mainly with the individual histories of eight Baptist



WILLIAM ATTAWAY

8-1941

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Southern Social Scientists Reveal Alarming Picture

SHARECROPPERS ALL. By Arthur F. Raper and Ira De A. Reid. University of North Carolina Press. \$3.

A leading magazine recently quoted the publisher of Franklin Roosevelt's "Public Papers" thus: "Mr. President, there are states like Mississippi where no one ever buys a book." No doubt the publisher has received scores of letters from irate Mississippians chiding him for the patent falsity of the statement. To one who peruses "Sharecroppers All" it would not be startling if Publisher Cerf's allegation were literally true.

Following the course plotted by Howard Odum and other "new thought" social scientists, Authors Raper and Reid turn the damning searchlight of "figgers" on Mississippi and her neighbors; and, as usual, the picture is an utterly unhappy one. Perhaps Mississippi's failure to buy books is understandable when it is considered that she stands thus in relation to the national average: per capita (annual) retail trade, \$256 for the United States, \$89 for Mississippi; per capita income, \$432 for the United States, \$170 for Mississippi; returns per worker in industry and business, \$1159 for the United States, \$684 for Mississippi. Such a state of affairs is hardly conducive to reading, whether the tomes be a President's public papers or a pulp artist's peppery thrillers.

The Insecure Majority

Underlying the authors' treatment is one basic theme, suggested by the title; namely, that working people in Dixie, whether they be urban or rural, are for all practical purposes sharecroppers. For the real meaning of that term, according to the authors, is found in such matters "as low wages, insecurity and lack of opportunity for self-direction. . . . A sharecropper shares in the risk without sharing in the control." They suggest that "taken broadly a plantation is a plantation whether in the rural or urban community, whether simple and hoary as the cotton plantation or complex and shiny as the chain stores."

From the industrial standpoint, the South is victimized by an evil which figured prominently in the antebellum plantation system—that of absentee ownership. The insurance companies, textile mills, credit corporations, steel establishments, and other great enterprises operating in the South are owned and supervised by outsiders. Southern cities, according to the au-

thors, thus become to a great extent "overseer's capitals," sheltering branch executives whose function is to give direction to establishments, the headquarters and profits of which have residence in the financial centers of the Northeastern Seaboard.

The evils of the sharecropper system as delineated by the au-

thors weigh most heavily on those persons at the bottom of the scale. With moving phrase and relentless logic, Raper and Reid depict the insecurity, the undernourishment, the illiteracy, the frustration and the incomprehensible costliness in humanity and in dollars accruing from the South's way of life. Responsibility for this system is charged to a number of factors including hangovers from slavery, Civil War and Reconstruction, to contemporary complacency, intolerance and shortsightedness.

A Glimmer of Hope

For an amelioration of Dixie's hapless plight the authors see a glimmer of hope in the work of such agencies as the FSA, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Professor Odum's Institute for Social Research, the Southern Policy Association; in the programs sponsored by such journals as Social Forces, the Virginia Quarterly Review, the Richmond Times Dispatch, and the Raleigh News and Observer; and in the liberal influence of such outstanding personalities as Mark Etheridge, Will Alexander, Gerald Johnson, Jonathan Daniels, Rupert Vance and Guy Johnson.

In charting a program for the realization of a better South, Raper and Reid place great stress on the necessity of racial understanding and co-operation. The book "Sharecroppers All" is itself a striking illustration of the point that they are emphasizing. Arthur Raper, author of "Preface to Peasantry" and "The Tragedy of Lynching," is a white researcher living in Greensboro, Ga.; Ira Reid is a negro professor of sociology in Atlanta University. The results of their co-operative venture will doubtless not be pleasing to all Southerners.

Defects Are Minor

This reviewer is of the opinion that it would have been well for the authors to differentiate between good landlords and bad ones in the treatment of the plantation system, and to point up the fact that many Southerners who are conscious of defects in the South-

ern way of life and who sincerely desire rectification are deterred from remedial action, as were their prewar antecedents, by the fact that they know not what to do. But even so, "Sharecroppers All" is a book of such thoroughness, of such comprehension, of such challenge, and of such unusual style that it deserves a careful reading by every Southerner who is sincerely interested in knowing realistically the land in which he lives. The University of North Carolina Press is to be commended for the attractive format of the volume. The excellently reproduced illustrations from the FSA files are worth the price of the book.

B. I. WILEY.

University of Mississippi.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Dunbar Critically Examined

DUNBAR CRITICALLY EXAMINED, by Victor Lawson (Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 Ninth street, N. W., Washington, D. C., price \$2.00) has just come from the press. This is the first effort of any American to undertake a literary interpretation and appraisal of the career of this Negro poet. As a rule, we mention only a few of his popular poems. Dunbar is generally spoken of as a successful lyric poet.

Mr. Lawson is the bright young man who has recently finished his education at Howard university under the influence of Professor Sterling A. Brown, one of the advanced thinkers of the race and probably its best critic of the productions of Negroes in the English language. The book was produced as a thesis offered in completing the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at Howard university, but it surpasses in many respects the average requirements for such academic honors. Many of our accredited universities are now conferring the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for dissertations which do not show so much research and original treatment as we find in the treatise of Mr. Lawson. While there will be many who will differ from him as to his attitudes and his conclusions, all must stamp his effort as commendable and encourage him to think further and to write more.

Mr. Lawson undertakes to examine briefly all works produced by Paul Laurence Dunbar and to appraise him as a writer in the light of all that he produced rather than to emphasize merely the most creditable of his productions. Here Dunbar is presented not only as a lyricist but as a short story writer, novelist, and playwright. Mr. Lawson's conclusion is that with the exception of his lyric poetry Dunbar was weak and failed to reach the higher level

attained by the great writers in the English language. Such criticism may be considered either new or old. It is certainly not any unusual discovery to prove that most of what our greatest poets have written falls far below standard. They are remembered for

the best things which they have done and for those only. The author is at fault in apparently blaming Dunbar for not doing the impossible, namely, to excel in everything he undertook.

The author is wrong also in holding it up as a defect that Dunbar was not a liberal—a writer with thoughts very much like those of the Socialist or Communist of our time. In other words, Dunbar is unsympathetically held responsible for not being able to think as people are now thinking almost a half century after the time that Dunbar lived. The public is indebted to Mr. Lawson for a searching examination of Dunbar's works, but few will agree that he has approached his problem according to all the principles by which the literary historian should be guided.

What is herein said by way of review, however, is not intended as an argument against the value of this work. In the 151 pages of the volume are given hundreds of verses which reflect the thought of Dunbar and enable the reader to construct in his imagination a complete picture of the times about which Dunbar wrote. It is of much worth also that these excerpts are brought into comparison with the works of other authors by whom Dunbar was influenced. The book, however, is a treatment not only of the literary contribution of a Negro, but a chapter in the history of English literature. Mr. Lawson deserves credit for thus broadening the picture to give a view of Dunbar not as a Negro poet but as a poet.

C. G. WOODSON

BOOK REVIEW Old South, War, Reconstruction Background for Thrilling Story

Synopsis and Criticism

Soil Erosion Perils

Wilson Forcefully Denounces America's
Exploitation of Land Without Conversation

Dunbar Critically Examined

FEB 21 1941

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Appraises His Work

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C. G. WODSON

Every Character Known to the Period Appears in Story.

BY THE DIM LAMPS, by Nathan Schachner. Frederick A. Stokes Company. New York. 578 pp. \$2.75.

Those individuals who were thrilled by "Gone With the Wind" will have no difficulty in developing an enthusiasm for Nathan Schachner's "By the Dim Lamps," not that there is observable similarity in plots, but because both treat in masterful style of the south's period of travail from shortly before actual war began to the time when northern politicians finally discovered that the sensible way to effect satisfactory "reconstruction" was to co-operate with the better element of the south's white population.

The principal characters of "By the Dim Lamps" are Hugh Flint and Sally Wales. The former is described as the son of a prosperous cotton and sugar broker, who at the start of the story had just returned to his home in New Orleans after graduating from a northern university. He knew war was coming; he knew the resources of the north and the dearth of same in the south; he was positive the south would lose, but he wanted to fight for her, so he entered the Louisiana military school (at that time under the direction of William Tecumseh Sherman) to prepare himself for the conflict.

Sally Wales was the beautiful daughter of a proud Louisiana planter, who sold his crops through the Flint brokerage firm. Hugh had met Sally some years before when he was sent by his father on business with Sally's father; but at that time she was "too young to notice." The second time was on a small Mississippi river boat. They "crossed up" immediately, she being a beautiful, haughty and spoiled aristocrat, while Hugh was only the son of a "man in trade." FEB 21 1941

That is where the real story begins, and it is the panorama of a culture to which full justice has never yet been done. Creole aristocrats, feudal planters,

hard-headed merchant traders, federal soldiers, slaves sold down the river, steamboat captains, gamblers, prostitutes, carpetbaggers, Negro legislators and the "White Carmelia" people these interesting pages.

You will meet Major Andy Hilgard, dissolute but aristocratic neighbor of the Wales family, hero of bagnio and battlefield, whom Sally Wales in a fit of pique married and lived to regret her rash act; Jessie Tait, gorgeous northern adventuress, who sought thrills in conquered, Negro-carpetbagger-ruled New Orleans; Captain Willis, salty mariner of "Ol' Man River"; Devoe, gambler extraordinary; Quash, gigantic ex-slave, who sought to create a black empire in that section; General Ben Butler, called "the beast," and other interesting characters — many southerners, some northerners.

Historically accurate, rich with incidents and characters drawn from unpublished diaries and manuscripts, this is a powerful, realistic novel of the period of the south's great travail.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

THE ROAD FROM MONTEBELLO. By Joseph B. Robert. Covers. Press. \$1.

Study of the Virginia Slavery Debate of 1832.

CORNBREAD AND CREEK WATER, by Charles Morrow Wilson. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 300 pp. \$3.

JAN 26 1941

Mr. Wilson is a trained reporter. He can make you see and feel what he has seen and felt. He reaches his climaxes with the force of a Charles Dickens; and if his book doesn't wake up the government's agents, it is difficult to imagine what will.

Hitler and little Mussolini have far less chance to do damage to the United States than something is already doing, the something that started when the forests were cleared and the grasses were burned away for one-crop systems of agriculture, the same thing that caused to be buried under dust and sand sand such great civilizations as Carthage, Rome, Persia, Mesopotamia and Northern China. That thing is soil erosion. It wipes out nations that war fools cannot or could not destroy. It is wiping out America. It is bringing poverty to millions who cannot long be supported by the non-producing urbanites. JAN 26 1941

The author's complaint is that pump-primings and doles cannot rebuild the lands rapidly enough, for "conservation farming" is rarely, if ever, immediately profitable to the tiller or to the nation.

The salvation of Europe has been her conserved soils. She has been for ages swapping culture for incendiary bombs, and making cannon fodder for children, but her soils have been protected. Otherwise she might be among the deserts that live only in memory. The tiny British Isles, he reminds, now grow more farm crops than all of the stupendous and wasteful Canada. The ancient fields of France still grow the heaviest wheat yields in all the world; and scarred Scandinavia leads most of the world in cattle husbandry.

Living vegetation, not chemical concentrates, is the great soil protector. JAN 26 1941

The Indians and the war-punished Southerners have faced the worst conditions in the nation, but the facts are being discovered. People who can't get for their products enough to pay for production are not running profitable business, whether they be working on farms or in factories. If there is no profit there can be no improvement.

Between 1914 and 1934 more soil

is believed to have been lost from ignore soil erosion, or shall be the world than in all previous human history. During that period yet nations were under the illusion that they could get rich quickly at the expense of a benevolent, unresisting Nature. Mine the soil and export its wealth to get cash from some other country, was the delusive philosophy.

ANDERSON.

Then the dust storms fed the Washington politicians a full dose of migratory soil, and aroused interest in America's vital question. Shall the white man continue to

8-1941

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Kingston Pamphlet Tells Life of Great Liberator

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Abolitionist, Liberator, Statesman. By Steve Kingston. 45 pages. Published by Brooklyn Council, National Negro Congress, 430 Franklin Ave. Price 5 cents.

By Eugene Gordon

This pamphlet should be read as a preface to the monumental life of Douglass recently issued in new type and format by the Pathway Press of this city. The pamphlet should be so read both for what it says and what it had to leave unsaid.

"Want of food was my chief trouble during my first summer here," Douglass wrote later of his early childhood on the Lloyd plantation. There was not enough of the coarse cornmeal mush for all the children, and the boy often fought the dog for crumbs when the cook brushed off the master's table.

That was Douglass' earliest recollection—or one of his earliest recollections—and in connection with it he tells of another just as poignant.

"Once he had an unexpected visit from his mother, who walked 12 miles to see him, bringing him a large ginger-cake," Kingston writes. He quotes Douglass: "I was dropped off to sleep and waked in the morning to find my mother gone. . . . I do not remember ever seeing her again. Death soon ended the little communication that had existed between us and, with it, I believe, a life full of weariness and heartfelt sorrow."

Wherever it is possible Kingston has allowed Douglass to tell the story in his own words. It would have been well had he found it possible more often. Douglass' style is typical of that of most writers of his day; nevertheless, it is simple, readable and interesting. It is interesting chiefly because of the story the writer had to tell—the story of a human being's gradual coming to realize that oppression of him and his kind was not ordained from "heaven" but was a very earthly matter, and the story of that human being's doing something about it.

Without making too much of the point, the author shows that the

same kind of efforts that were used to keep the slave from inquiring into the nature and the cause of slavery are now employed to keep the workers from inquiring into the nature and the cause of the system which oppresses them, today.

The pamphlet might have said more about causes behind some slaves' opposition to the abolitionist movement. For in spite of the beatings, hunger, nakedness, murder—in spite of the fact that a slave had no rights which a white man was bound to respect—there were bondsmen who opposed being set free. The number of this kind was very small, of course, as the number of "Uncle Tom" Negroes today is small compared with the vast multitude which demands true liberation. A pamphlet of this kind increases in value for us today to the extent that it draws parallels between that day and this one and draws the correct conclusions.

Kingston to a large extent does exactly that; and when he does it his work is excellent as a guide in today's battle for the liberation of the Negro people and of the oppressed as a whole. It was impossible for him to include everything of importance in the life of Douglass; what he has left out is, in some instances, as significant as that which he put in. But if "Frederick Douglass: Abolitionist, Liberator, Statesman" is read preparatory to your reading the Pathway Press' life of this great American, you lose nothing and gain a great deal.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

BOOK REVIEWS

New Masses
New York, N. Y.

Scholarship and Insight

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY, Spring 1941, vol. 5, no. 2. 30 E. 20th Street, New York City.

THE current issue of *Science and Society* includes four major articles on vital subjects of contemporary and historical interest. Each of these articles maintains the high level of scholarly competence and social insight which all readers of this publication have come to expect as a matter of course.

Samuel Putnam's "Vargas Dictatorship in Brazil" is a stimulating inquiry into the regime which Getulio Vargas set up by his coup d'etat of Nov. 10, 1937. Is it simply another "military dictatorship" or is Vargas an old-school dictator? Or is Brazil a fascist state of the modern type? Mr. Putnam, whose contributions to Latin-American studies have frequently appeared in *NEW MASSES*, answers that Brazil is today suffering under a semi-colonial type of fascism; that is to say, the finance capitalists who in reality exercise the dictatorship are not native but foreign. It is as yet an unstable and as yet unconsolidated fascism which was in good part established and supported by the United States. The specific features of this fascism are analyzed, and its tie-up with developments in this country is suggested. The article opens up a whole area of research in contemporary imperialist relations.

"The Negro in the Abolitionist Movement" is the second of two articles by Herbert Aptheker. It embodies the usual virtues of Mr. Aptheker's writings on Negro history: painstaking research in original materials, a fresh point of view, and a vigorous insistence on the Negro's own contribution to his emancipation from slavery. The myth that the Abolitionist movement was a "philanthropic" venture conducted solely by white men is shattered by the author. He stresses the cohesiveness, discipline, and organization of the struggle conducted by Negroes in conjunction with progressive white men and women to achieve freedom.

Reviewed by WARREN BROWN
(For Calvin's Service)

MARIAN ANDERSON—A PORTRAIT by Kosti Vehanen—Whittlesey House, New York and London, publishers, May 1941.

When a photographer takes a figure, he has certain liberties that are to his own liking. He can shade or blot out whatever features to him seem ugly. The portrait of Marian Anderson by her accompanist, Kosti Vehanen, is such a case of an artist putting into the finished product his own feeling, admiration and appreciation for the world famous singer.

In this portrait of Miss Anderson, the writer gives a brush like sweep of the fashions, social etiquette and social tempo of countries on the continent and in the Americas. Throughout, Miss Anderson is put into the focus as she rises from the position of a curia to become the recipient of honors by a Crown Princess, King and Queen and Presidents.

When the great artist walks across a concert stage, calmly standing before a few realizations as the author: what all has been put into the preparation for that performance. Certainly, the glamour, thunderous applause, silence balanced against telling hardships. Mr. Vehanen adhering to his own artistic soul, does not dwell at any length on the great singer's difficulties. Instead, he simply passes by many problems as normal factors in the day's work.

To the writer, the art and the person, Marian Anderson, are inseparable and the combination transcends all mundane factors. In truth, the subject of the portrait is not treated very much in a purely historic role. The exception is the story of their mutual devotion, mother and daughter. A criticism that the writer failed to penetrate beyond the surface may be freely lodged.

Samuel Bernstein adds another chapter to the history of French working class movements which he has been developing in *Science and Society* over the past few years. In "The Paris Commune" he shows that the workers' government of 1870 initiated labor and social changes of a practical character, reforms which constituted what Lenin once called "the minimum program of socialism." The historical significance of the Commune, its limitations and its strength, its display of heroism by the workers and brutal treachery by the bourgeoisie, may be read in this well-documented and incisive study.

In "Recent Literature of Race and Culture Contacts," Bernhard J. Stern examines trends and methods of anthropological study as revealed in twenty recent books in this field. This monumental omnibus review shows the relation between ethnological method and the attitude of the individual student toward contemporary issues. There is a particularly fruitful section on the war and recent studies in immigration and race.

If there is one criticism of the issue, it is that, like so many other issues of this splendid magazine, it fails to include an article which deals directly with a central phase of the world situation today. In view of the fact that *Science and Society* is a quarterly, the editors no doubt find it difficult, in a rapidly moving world, to editorialize on specific events. However, there are certain underlying problems which many readers would like to see discussed, such as the economic consequences of the "defense" program, the status of labor organization today, the character of German, British, and American imperialism, and the economic and social structure of Soviet socialism. A more central approach to these problems would gain even more prestige and influence for the magazine than it now possesses.

Science and Society has been moving in this direction. Certainly, its readers appreciate as never before the importance of its scientific treatment of materials which are being ignored or distorted by other scholarly publications under the impact of the crisis.

ARTHUR FOWLER.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

W. C. HANDY TELLS HOW HE BECAME 'FATHER OF THE BLUES'

I was born in Florence, Ala., eight years after the emancipation of my race. I came from a family of minstrel musicians. My father hoped to make me another Bishop Handy, but I early decided on a musical career.

I worked a year at a blast furnace to earn money for my tuition at Wilberforce university but I finally had to content myself with what I could acquire at Florence high school. I never trod a college campus until I became a member of the faculty at A. and M. college, near Huntsville, Ala. Since those early days I have made addresses and given concerts in many colleges from coast to coast.

Rudiments of music taught by the sol fa system in the school served as the basis for whatever technical knowledge I have since acquired; moreover, they prepared me to listen for and notate unusual musical sounds which resulted in my discovery of what went into the making of the blues. In my early twenties, four years of tramping with a Minstrel show gave me opportunity to study instrumentation, orchestration, band arranging and conducting. Traveling with topnotch professionals, having for reference the best available music books, and meeting representative musicians of almost every state in the Union, as well as Canada, Mexico, and Cuba, enabled me to add to my musical knowledge and put it to practical use.

My residence in Clarksdale, Miss., further showed me the beauty of primitive Negro music, and in Memphis, Tenn., came the urge to write what is known as "The Memphis Blues", which was turned over to almost every reputable publisher of popular music, forcing me to become a music publisher before being recognized as a composer. The Memphis Blues contained what we now call "blue notes," set in a twelve-bar strain—something new and different; and the last strain introduced the first "jazz break"

in measures seven and eight, which created a new trend in America's popular music and even influenced serious composers at home and abroad.

The St. Louis Blues and later compositions written and published in the environment of Beale street, resulted in a contract with the Columbia Graphophone company to bring my orchestra to New York for twelve recordings, after which I determined to move our publishing business from Beale street to Broadway.

I have never visited Europe, but I long to go to Africa. Several times I planned to go but eventually found myself headed for the Deep South in search of inspiration. Forty-eight years ago I left there with a quartet, making my way in box cars to Chicago for the Columbian Exposition, only to find the Fair postponed for another year. Forty years later I took a bow there to the applause of 125,000 people. As a member of ASCAP I appeared on the programs given at Treasure Island, San Francisco; and at the New York World's Fair just before the close of the fifty outstanding writer-members of this organization, accompanied by Symphony Orchestras, in programs of unforgettable music.

New York City

New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

GULLAH—Mason Crum—Duke University Press—Durham, N. C., \$3.50.

"Gullah" is the story, written by a Southerner, of Carolina coastal life with the Negro as the main character. The Gullah Negroes, living among the deteriorating plantations of the coast and sea islands in South Carolina, represent the last remnants of American stock in America today, says Mr. Crum. Their most distinguishing characteristics are a curious dialect and a quaint philosophy.

Because the lives and fortunes of the Negro have been inter-

twined with the whites of the section ever since the days when the community enjoyed greater financial prosperity, the author has given a complete picture of the life in that section. Woven into this study are many aspects of contemporary Negro life, including the dialect, the Spirituals, the Negro's experience as a child of nature and his religion.

CHILDREN OF BONDAGE—Allison Davis and John Dollard—American Council on Education—Washington, D. C.—\$2.25.

"Children of Bondage" is one of many studies of the problems of Negro youth made by the American Youth Commission. It is a study of the personality development of the young Negro in the Urban South.

It is an attempt to recreate the personalities and to describe the socialization of 8 Negro adolescents in the Deep South of this country. They were selected from thirty case studies of Negro children between the ages of 12 and 18 who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana and Natchez, Mississippi. Children were selected upon the basis of their class position, so that all class positions in the Negro society could be represented. Their experiences illustrate the fundamental controls which class exercises over the socialization of its members, particularly the youth.

In a small way those who made the study have been able to reveal, from the study of these eight young people, what it means to be brought up a Negro. They have been able to analyze the ways which a growing Negro personality reacts to the rewards and punishments, the caste-like taboos, and the variable demands of the family, class and clique sanctions of their worlds.

Their findings can be more readily used as a basis of study as they have resulted from a combined psychological and cultural point of view and picture in detail the life experiences of individuals born into a special status in an important section of American society.

THE FATE OF BLACK PEOPLE UNDER GERMANY—G. M. James, formerly professor of philosophy at Johnson C. Smith University and Livingston College.

Since the ideas of the Black lucid and helpful manner.

The pamphlet has just reached

us for review. The author approaches this vital question of the hour in a very diplomatic, race are in a state of confusion concerning the effect of the present world crisis upon the race, the author attempts to unify Black opinion, by setting forth a set of distasteful and irrefutable facts concerning the German post-

World War attitude towards Black people, as the basis of race solidarity on the question of destiny.

The pamphlet is a scholarly production and should be read by Black people throughout the world.

BY THE DIM LAMPS—Nathan Schachner—1941, A. Stokes Co., New York: \$2.75.

"By the Dim Lamps" is a dramatic and powerful novel written by Nathan Schachner about the two decades which included the Civil War and the period just following it. It is a stirring story of New Orleans and the sugar plantations of Louisiana, of the old Southerner and the new, of the master and slave and of the slave after he was free.

The author spent much time and effort making his an historically accurate work. He spent considerable time in New Orleans and the surrounding country absorbing color and atmosphere, examining diaries, letters, newspapers and pamphlets of the period which would help him make his novel a true picture of the times.

His portrayal of the Negro "Quash" before and after the Civil War gives us an understanding of the definite part a Negro played in the period.

"This is the panorama of a culture to which full justice has not been done."

8-1941
New York ~~are~~
New York, N. Y.

BOOK REVIEW

NEGRO YOUTH AT THE CROSSWAYS. E. Franklin Frazier, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. \$2.25.

MAR 8 1941

"Negro Youth at the Crossways" is a study on the personality development of Negro youth as affected by their membership in a minority group and as manifested in different sections of the country.

It is based on information secured by a research staff working principally in the two borderline cities of Washington, D. C., and Louisville, Ky. They interviewed 268 Negro young people on material organizing as follows: factors relating to the family, the neighborhood, the school and job hunting.

MAR 8 1941

These boys and girls were selected from the various areas of the Negro community in which they lived and from the different social strata and associations which comprise its social structure. Roughly they have been then divided into three groups classified as follows: lower class, middle and upper classes; as each group reacts differently to the factors affecting personality.

Although those who made the study feel that some of the cases are not typical, they do feel they came to some conclusions regarding the personality development of Negro youth in its functional relationship to the social world in which it developed. The author, E. Franklin Frazier, says that "the culture, traditions and economic position of the family determined not only the type of discipline to which the child is subjected but the manner in which he developed his conception of himself as a Negro." As he grew up he got contacts with the outside world which not only influenced his ideas and attitudes of himself as a Negro but also toward white people.

"GROWING UP IN THE BLACK BELT." Charles S. Johnson, American Council on Education, Washington, D. C. \$2.25.

MAR 8 1941

"Growing Up in the Black Belt" is one of a series of stud-

ies of Negro youth conducted currently in different sections of the United States by the American Youth Commission. It concerns itself with the Negro youth of the rural South, and since youth, under the age of 25, make up half the Negro population of the Black Belt, the problems of the race are necessarily the problems of youth.

This study, in general, puts the measure of personality development against the two yardsticks of economic insecurity and race relations. Dr. Charles S. Johnson, head of the social science department of Fisk University, says he "finds the factors of economic insecurity to be more limiting than the segregation laws enforced against the Negro." But it seeks too, to find what adjustments youth have made in the family, the school and the church. It tries to find some measurements for adjustment to play and recreation, but these were barren fields. The Southern Negro youth spend most of their leisure time at "talking games."

Rural Negro girls are now demanding a husband who will support them. They seem to be no longer willing to suffer the disadvantages of rearing a large family, of being the family's major wage earner, or of working in the fields as a farm hand. The houses in which the Negro youth live are, with few exceptions, dismally inadequate.

Their schools, which have the support of the state, are scarcely better. In a nation which spends \$99.70 on each pupil, the Southern Negro child, on an average, receives only \$23 of educational money. When expenditures for new groups, buildings and equipment are compared, the inequality is more striking. For each pupil in average daily attendance, the capital outlay was \$2.95; for each Negro pupil it was 58 cents. Teacher qualifications are low, school plants are necessarily shabby, because of these inefficiencies.

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The church is still the outstanding social institution in the Negro community, and although almost 80 per cent of the rural youth were critical of ministers, few questioned the values of religious influence in their lives.

In the plantation area where the population is predominantly Negro, the youth showed its most violent antipathy to whites, but this antipathy weakened where the populations were more nearly equal. The Negro youth must always be aware of the set of taboos which are translated into laws which change not only from state to state but county. Some of them are: he cannot marry white, he must always address them as "Mr." and "Mrs.," he cannot go to a white hotel, he must not eat with whites, nor drink with them or play games with them. In some places he may not enter a white man's front door, he may not go to a white theatre, nor may he try on a hat in a store.

Within the rural Negro group exist at least three distinct classes, based upon educational opportunity mainly whose limits are rigidly enforced by the Negroes themselves.

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Under the stresses of a class within a race, and a race within a nation the Negro youth therefore develops. "The Negro child must learn not only to live in his world and like it, but he must find some zest in the very necessity of conforming to the conditions imposed upon him by a more exclusive social order, which insists on treating him, in some sense, and to some degree, as an alien," Dr. Johnson found in talking to the youth.